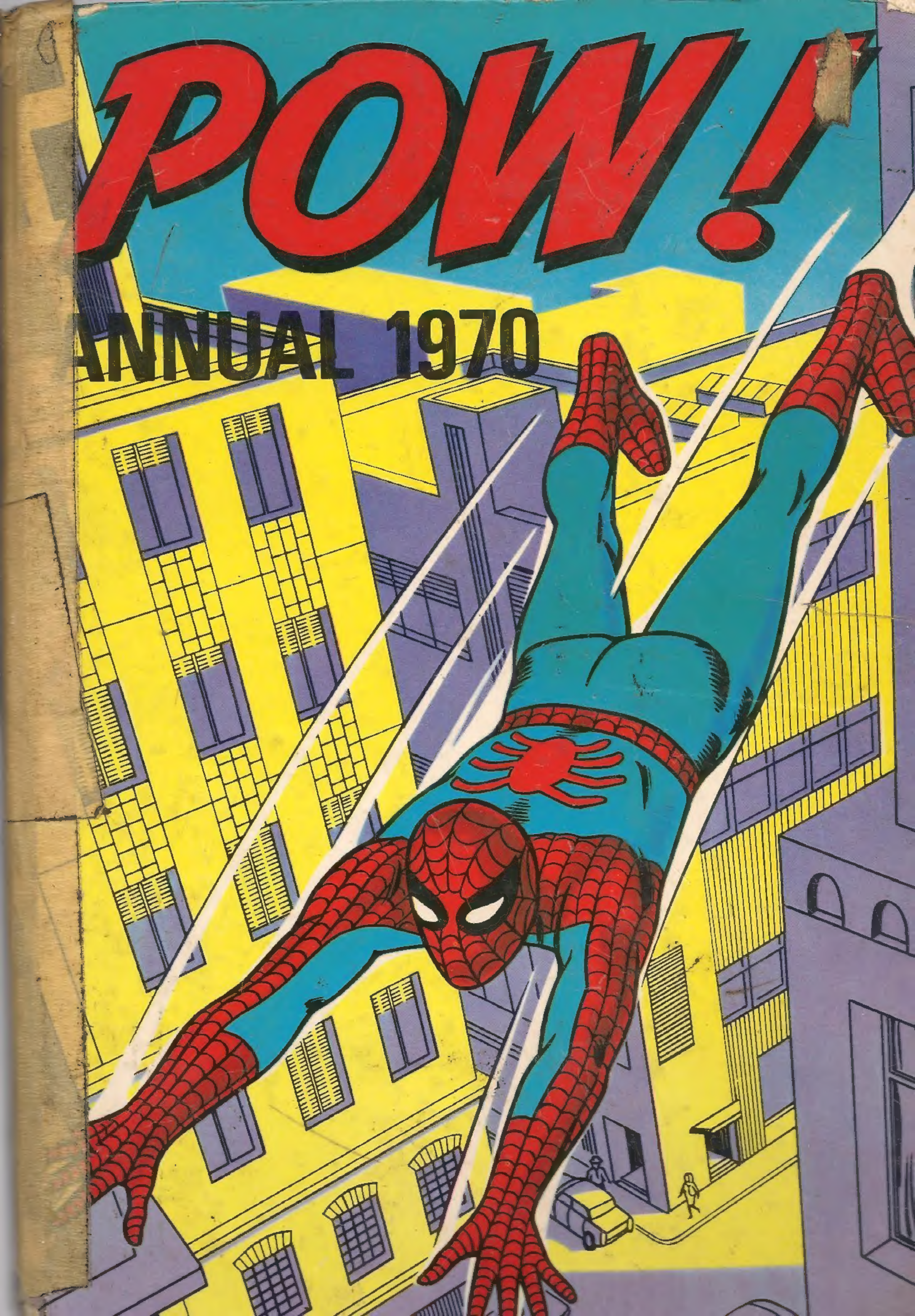
POW!
ANNUAL 1970

SGT. FURY *and his* HOWLING COMMANDOS

"AT THE MERCY OF BARON STRUCKER"

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EXACTLY TEN MINUTES LATER, AT A HIDDEN COMMANDO TRAINING AREA...
QUICK TIME, YOU HOWLERS! AND THE FIRST MAN WHO SO MUCH AS RUSTLES A TWIG WILL ANSWER TO ME FOR IT!
NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT! FURY ACTS JUST LIKE JUNIOR WAS HIS OWN SON! HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIMSELF FOR WHAT HAPPENED!
NUTS! THIS IS KID'S STUFF! I... HEY!
WHO PUT THAT BLASTED CREEPING VINE IN MY WAY?

KID STUFF, IS IT, YOU CLUMSY GORILLA?! IF ANY PANZERS HAD BEEN AROUND TO HEAR YOU, WE'D HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT!
NOW LET'S SEE YOU GET OVER THAT SMOOTH ROCK... AND I MEAN AT FULL GALLOP!
AW, SARGE, HAVE A HEART! IT'S BETTER'N TWELVE FEET HIGH!
MOVE, CORPORAL! THAT'S AN ORDER!

LIFT THOSE FEET, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND WALRUS! GET THE LEAD OUT! THIS AIN'T A REST CURE, YOU FLEA-BITTEN GOLD BRICK!
FURY, IF YOU EVER LOSE THOSE THREE STRIPES, I'LL MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS... AFTER I GET THROUGH CLOBBERIN' YOU!

I ONLY JOINED THIS BLASTED, CHICKEN-SCRATCHING OUTFIT TO GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET AWAY FROM MY ≡UGH≡ WIFE... AND THEN I HAVE TO GET A SERGEANT WHO MAKES THE OL' BATTLE-AXE SEEM LIKE SLEEPIN' BEAUTY!!

I SAID FASTER, YOU THICK-SKINNED MEAT-HEAD! STOP FLAPPIN' YOUR MOUTH AND MOVE THOSE TWO LEFT FEET OF YOURS!
ONE OF THESE DAYS... ONE OF THESE DAYS... OH MAN, ONE OF THESE DAYS!!!

HAW! POOR OL' DUM-DUM! HE LOOKS LIKE A FLEA-BITTEN SALAMANDER UP THERE!
GLAD YOU THINK IT'S SO FUNNY, DINO! BECAUSE YOU'RE NEXT! NOW WIPE THAT DUMB-LOOKIN' GRIN OFF YOUR FACE AND HIT THE DIRT! HEAR ME? I SAID DOWN!!

DON'T JUST LAY THERE, SOLDIER!! GET ACROSS THAT STREAM... AND KEEP YOUR BUTT DOWN!!
AND IF ONE DROP OF WATER HITS THAT BARREL, I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU WERE NEVER BORN!

I HAD TO OPEN MY BIG, FAT MOUTH!
ULP! IT'S GETTIN' DEEP! BUT I'M BETTER OFF DROWNIN' THAN LETTIN' FURY GET MAD AT ME!

DON'T JUST STAND DOWN THERE, YOU MEATHEAD! IT AIN'T SATURDAY NIGHT! KEEP MOVIN'!
AND HOLD YOUR BREATH EVEN IF IT CHOKES YA! IF THE ENEMY EVER SPOTS AN AIR BUBBLE, YOU'RE FINISHED!

..GASP!... I M-MADE IT!!
THOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HADN'T! I WOULDN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO FURY ANY-MORE!

THROUGHOUT THE LONG AFTERNOON FURY KEEPS HIS HOWLERS HOPPING, GIVING THEM THE KIND OF TRAINING WHICH CAN SPELL LIFE OR DEATH TO A COMBAT COMMANDO UNDER FIRE!
IZZY! BRING THAT TIN CAN OVER HERE! I'LL TEACH REB TO LIGHT A CIGARETTE DURING TRAINING!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!!

WOULD YOU EXPECT A NAZI TANK TO STOP 'CAUSE YOU ASKED 'IM TO, YOU SAWED-OFF MEATBALL?! GET DOWN IN THAT FOXHOLE! EAT DIRT, SOLDIER!... WE AIN'T PLAYIN' FOOTSIES!
YEEOWW!!

10s. 6d

VER-RY FUNNY! AND NOW THAT YOU'VE ALL HAD YOUR LITTLE LAUGH!

LOOK OUT WITH THAT GRENADE, REBEL!! IZZY'S EXPENDABLE, BUT THOSE TANKS COST MONEY!

NOW WHAT DID YOU GO AND PUSH MY ARM FOR, SARGE!?
TAKE COVER YOU HEROES ?!!

HEY, SARGE, CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT AIN'T IT THE NAZIS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTIN' ??
IZZY'S RIGHT, HEAR? HOW YOU EXPECT TO WIN THIS WAR BY KILLIN' YOUR OWN BUDDY BOYS?
MISTER, MY JOB IS TO MAKE THINGS SO TOUGH FOR YOU HOWLERS THAT WHENEVER YOU RUN INTO THE ENEMY, YOU'LL THINK YOU'RE ON A PICNIC OUTING!
IF YOU ASK ME, WE COULD WIN THIS MAN'S WAR A LOT FASTER IF THEY'D SEND YOU ACROSS THE CHANNEL TO TRAIN THE NAZIS! THEY WOULDN'T LIVE TO SEE ANY ACTION!

IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE GRIPIN' TO DO, I'LL GIVE YOU A TICKET TO THE CHAPLAIN! IN THE MEANTIME, FALL IN!!
I SAID FALL IN, NOT FALL APART, YOU SLOPPY, SCROUNGY, FLEA-BITTEN DOG-FACES!! GET THOSE SHOULDERS BACK, IF YOU CAN FIND 'EM! LOOK ALIVE, YOU DEADBEATS!

AND IN CASE YOU THINK YOUR GENTLE OLD SARGE IS GETTIN' TOO SOFT, WE'RE GONNA DOUBLE-TIME THE THREE MILES BACK TO CAMP!
AND KEEP YOUR GUN MUZZLES DOWN!! IF ONE DROP OF RAIN HITS A GUN BARREL, I'LL WRAP IT AROUND YOUR SCRAWNY NECKS!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITIN' FOR, PLAY-MATES? GET GOIN'!

BUT WHILE FURY AND HIS SQUAD SPEND A PLEASANT AFTERNOON, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION ACROSS THE CHANNEL TO A HEAVILY GUARDED CASTLE IN BAVARIA ...
GENERAL STROHEIM TO SEE BARON STRUCKER!

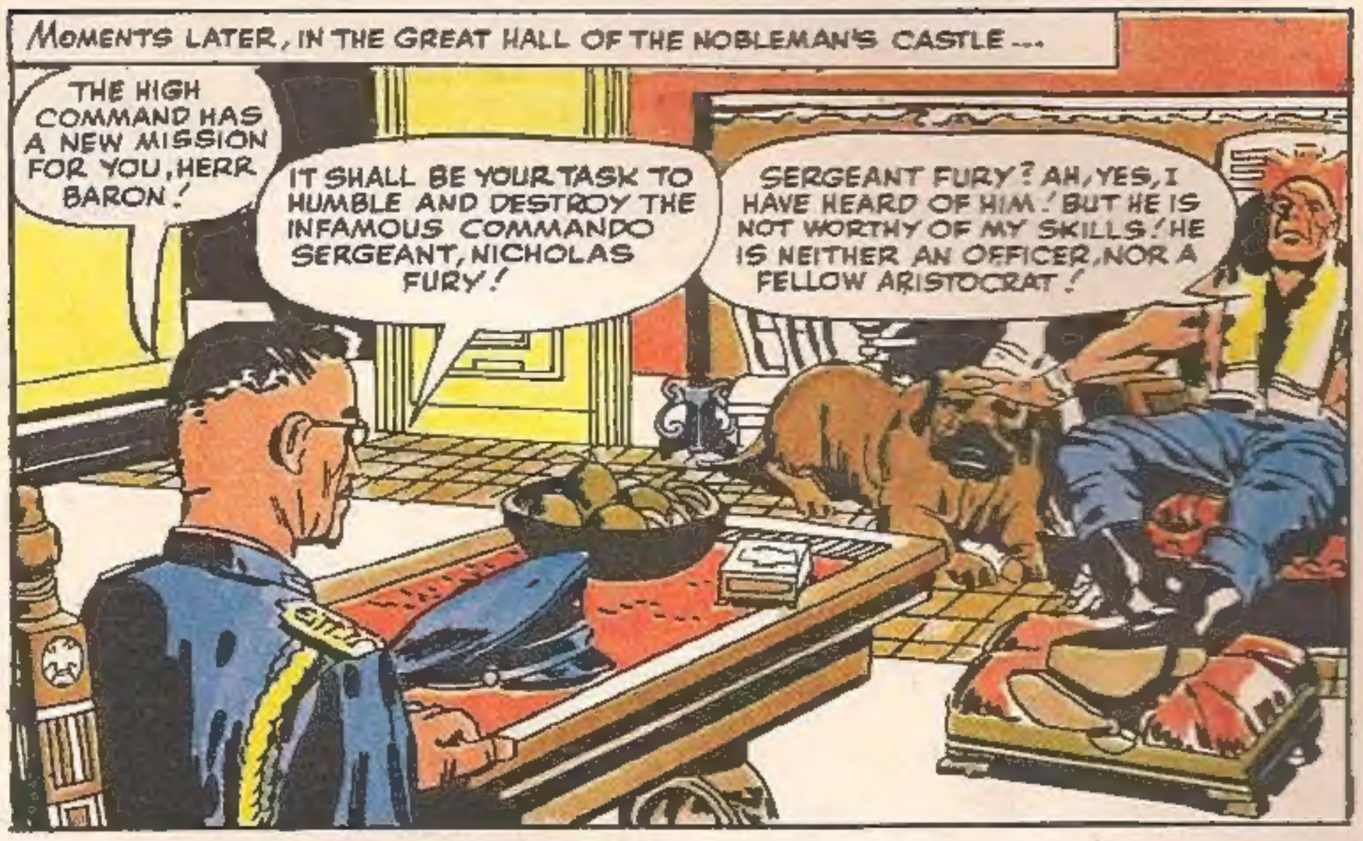
FOLLOW ME, PLEASE, GENERAL! HERR BARON ISS IN DER DUELING HALL!
THAT ISS TO BE EXPECTED FROM SUCH A MAN!

ACHTUNG!!
HERR GENERAL STROHEIM TO SEE BARON STRUCKER!!
ONE MOMENT, MY DEAR GENERAL! THAT IS ALL THE TIME I SHALL NEED TO DISARM MY OVEREAGER OPPONENT!

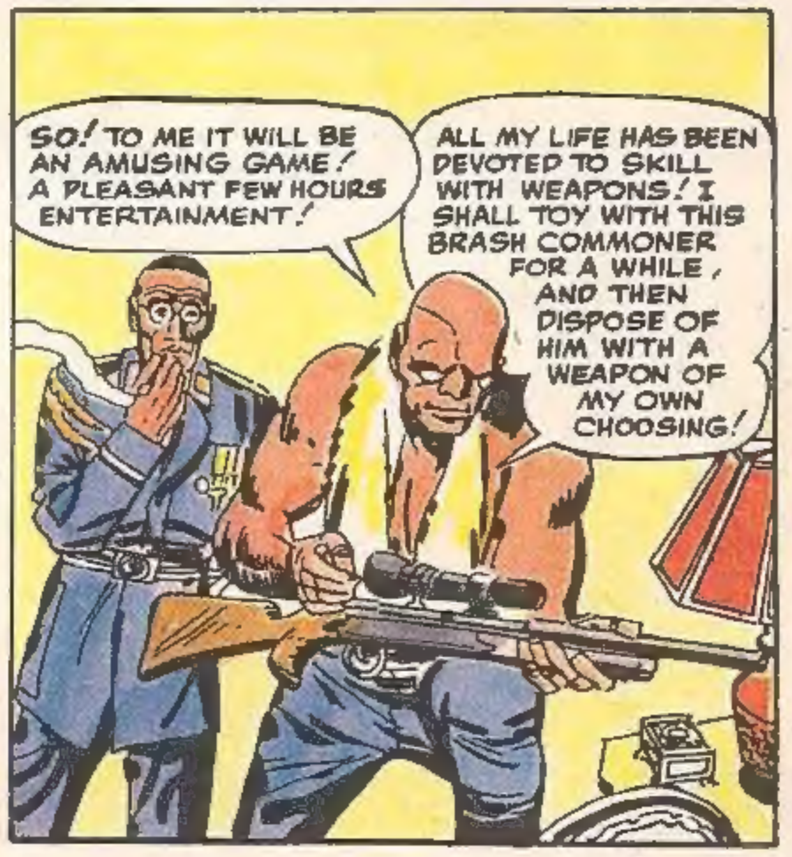
ONE!
TWO!

THREE!

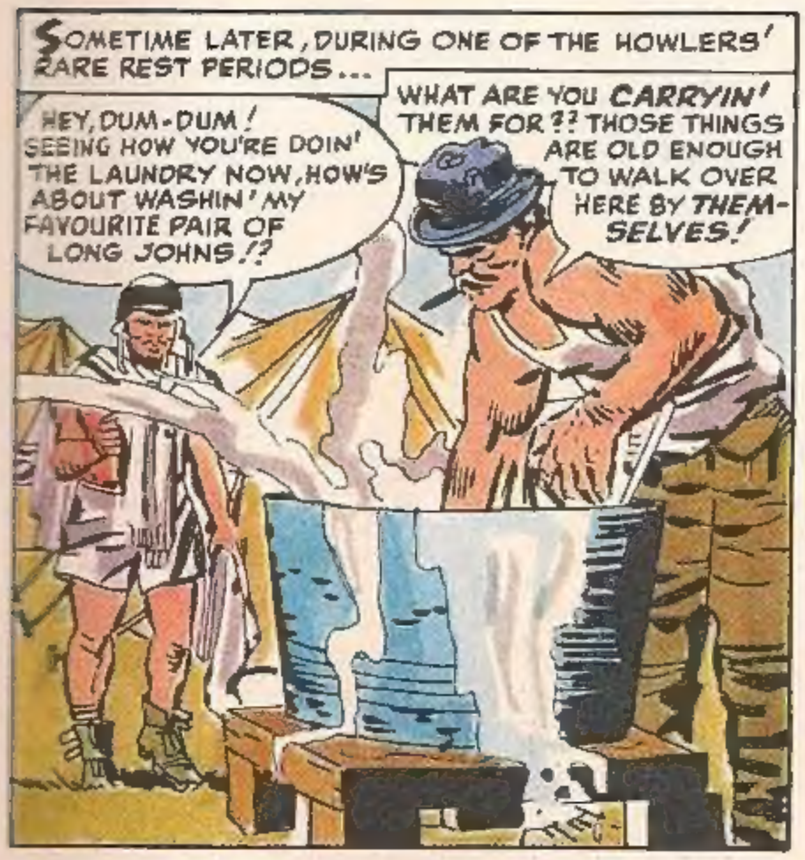
YOU HAFF WON AGAIN, HERR BARON!
OF COURSE! YOU ARE DISMISSED NOW!
CLICK!


MOMENTS LATER, IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE NOBLEMAN'S CASTLE ...
THE HIGH COMMAND HAS A NEW MISSION FOR YOU, HERR BARON!
IT SHALL BE YOUR TASK TO HUMBLE AND DESTROY THE INFAMOUS COMMANDO SERGEANT, NICHOLAS FURY!
SERGEANT FURY? AH, YES, I HAVE HEARD OF HIM! BUT HE IS NOT WORTHY OF MY SKILLS! HE IS NEITHER AN OFFICER, NOR A FELLOW ARISTOCRAT!

NEVERTHELESS, YOUR ORDERS COME FROM DER FUEHRER HIMSELF! WE MUST PROVE THAT A NAZI... AN ARYAN SUPERMAN... IS THE SUPERIOR OF THE MOST FEARED COMMANDO OF ALL!


SO! TO ME IT WILL BE AN AMUSING GAME! A PLEASANT FEW HOURS ENTERTAINMENT!
ALL MY LIFE HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO SKILL WITH WEAPONS! I SHALL TOY WITH THIS BRASH COMMONER FOR A WHILE, AND THEN DISPOSE OF HIM WITH A WEAPON OF MY OWN CHOOSING!

GOOT! DER FUEHRER WILL BE VERY PLEASED! YOU VILL RECEIVE FURTHER ORDERS IN A SHORT TIME, HERR BARON!
I NEED NO ORDERS! AS WING COMMANDER OF THE FUEHRER'S DEATH-HEAD SQUADRON, I SHALL ARRANGE ALL THE DETAILS!


SOMETIME LATER, DURING ONE OF THE HOWLERS' RARE REST PERIODS...
HEY, DUM-DUM! SEEING HOW YOU'RE DOIN' THE LAUNDRY NOW, HOW'S ABOUT WASHIN' MY FAVOURITE PAIR OF LONG JOHNS!?
WHAT ARE YOU CARRYIN' THEM FOR?? THOSE THINGS ARE OLD ENOUGH TO WALK OVER HERE BY THEMSELVES!

CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK ABOUT 'EM, CHUM! THEY MEAN A LOT TO ME! I WORE 'EM ACROSS HALF THE BATTLEFIELDS IN EUROPE!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, IZ! I GOT THE SAME FEELIN' FOR MY DERBY! I'D FEEL NAKED WITHOUT IT!

YEAH, BUT I WOULD BE NAKED WITHOUT MY LONGIES, AND...
HEY!! HIT THE DIRT!!

WHAT GIVES??! ONE LONE NAZI TRYIN' TO SHOOT UP THE WHOLE BLAMED POST??! HE MUST BE A PROFESSIONAL NUT!
DUM-DUM!! MY FAITHFUL OLD WOOLIES!! LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO 'EM!!

WATCH OUT, IZ!! THAT MANIAC IS COMIN' BACK AGAIN!
I HEAR YOU TALKIN', BIG MAN! JUST STEP ASIDE AND LET ME AT 'IM! I'LL TEACH 'IM TO SHOOT UP A GUY'S FAVORITE UNDERWEAR THAT WAY!!

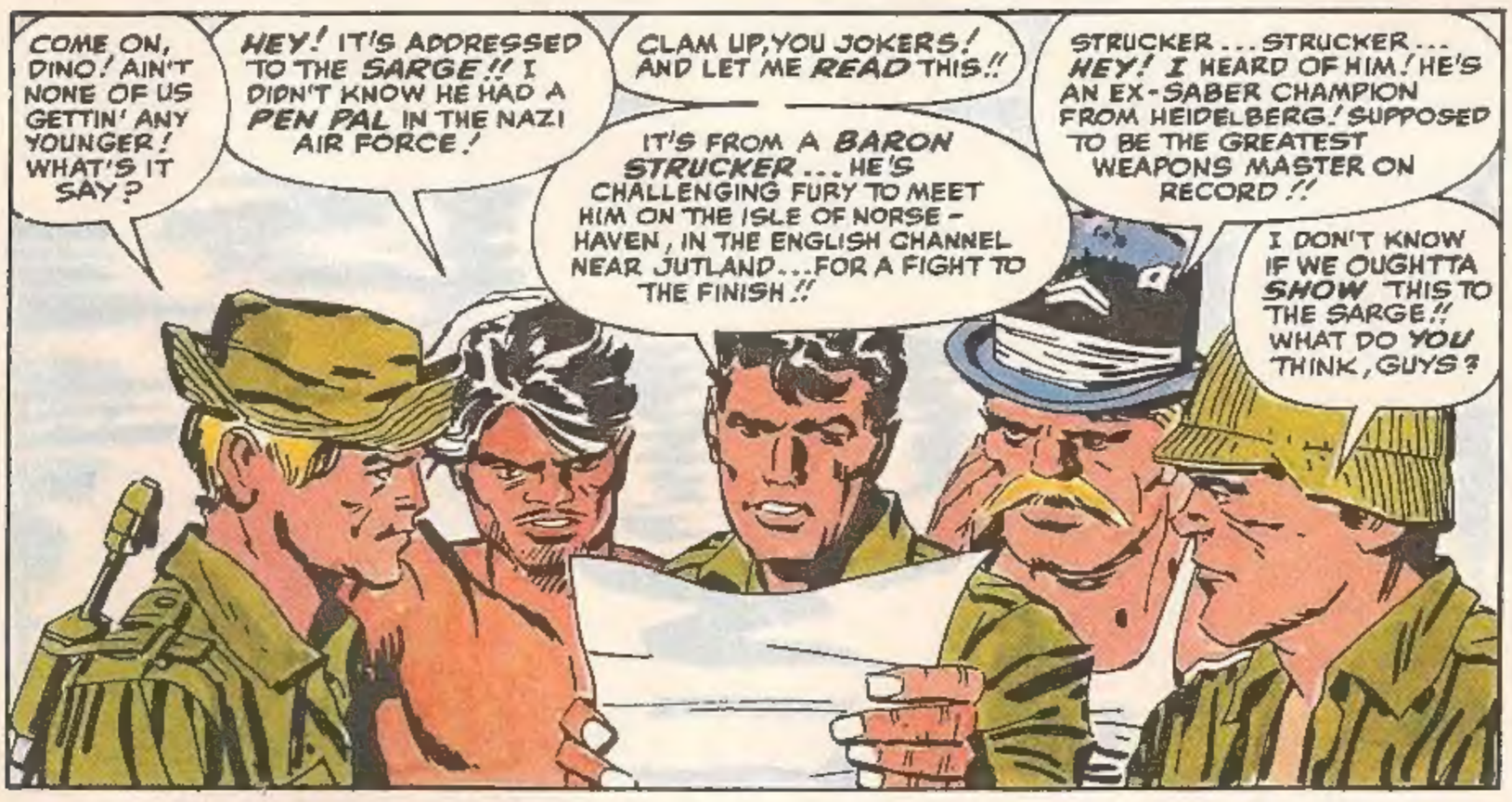
ONE SIDE, SOLDIER!! I'M GONNA BORROW THIS PEA-SHOOTER FOR A MINUTE!
HEY!! WHO IN BLAZES DO YOU THINK...?
ULP! YOU'RE ONE OF FURY'S HOWLERS! S-SURE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT, FELLA!!

THE BLAMED TURRET NEEDS OILIN'! CAN'T SWING IT AROUND FAST ENOUGH !! OF ALL THE LUCK!
BAP-RAP-RAP-RAP-RAP!

SUDDENLY, THE PLANE'S COCKPIT SLIDES OPEN, AND THE SNEERING, ARROGANT FACE OF BARON STRUCKER SIGHTS HIS TARGET, AS HE PREPARES TO HURL A SMALL METAL CYLINDER TO THE GROUND BELOW ...
THIS IS FOR YOU, DEMOCRATIC SWINE !!!

YEOWP!

GOOD THING YOU GOT A REAL NICE, THICK SKULL, IZ!
IF THE GUYS BACK HOME EVER HEAR OF THIS...
WHAT WAS THAT OL' RUCKUS ALL ABOUT?
I HEARD THAT BONG FROM OVER HERE! NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A HIGH-NOTE!!
HE'S GONE! BUT THERE'S A MESSAGE IN THIS TUBE!


COME ON, DINO! AIN'T NONE OF US GETTIN' ANY YOUNGER! WHAT'S IT SAY?
HEY! IT'S ADDRESSED TO THE SARGE!! I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD A PEN PAL IN THE NAZI AIR FORCE!
CLAM UP, YOU JOKERS! AND LET ME READ THIS!!
IT'S FROM A BARON STRUCKER ... HE'S CHALLENGING FURY TO MEET HIM ON THE ISLE OF NORSE-HAVEN, IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL NEAR JUTLAND ... FOR A FIGHT TO THE FINISH!!
STRUCKER ... STRUCKER ... HEY! I HEARD OF HIM! HE'S AN EX-SABER CHAMPION FROM HEIDELBERG! SUPPOSED TO BE THE GREATEST WEAPONS MASTER ON RECORD!!
I DON'T KNOW IF WE OUGHTTA SHOW THIS TO THE SARGE!! WHAT DO YOU THINK, GUYS?

BUT GABE IS DESTINED NEVER TO RECEIVE AN ANSWER, FOR JUST THEN ...
DIS-PERSE, YOU HOWLERS! THIS AIN'T A REST HOME! BACK TO THE BARRACKS..ON THE DOUBLE!
JUST OUR LUCK! NOBODY RECOG-NIZED FURY... HE'S IMPERSONATING A HUMAN BEING IN THAT CLASS A UNIFORM!

WHEN I FIND OUT WHO DROPPED THIS NOTE, I'LL PUT HIM ON DETAIL FOR A WEEK FOR MESSIN' UP THE PLACE!! HEY!.. WHAT'S THAT?? IT'S ADDRESSED TO ME!!

FROM BARON STRUCKER, EH? I'VE HEARD OF THAT SWELL-HEADED STIFF!

IT'S A CHALLENGE!! BUT, WHAT THIS HE CALLS ME? ... A MEALY-MOUTHED, YELLOW-BELLIED, NON-ARYAN COWARD?!! ME?! NICK FURY??!!

THAT GOOSE-STEPPIN' GARGOYLE BETTER NOT START READIN' ANY CONTINUED STORIES, BECAUSE WHEN I GET MY MITTS ON 'IM I'LL SPLATTER HIM RIGHT IN THE FUEHRER'S FACE! I'LL JUST PLAIN DEMOLISH HIM!

EXACTLY THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

CAPTAIN SAWYER, I WANT TO SEE YOU!!

LATER, FURY! THIS SOLDIER WAS FIRST!

G-GOSH! SERGEANT FURY!!

I DON'T THINK HE'LL MIND IF I INTERRUPT HIM... WHAT DO YOU SAY, BLUE EYES??

ULP!! N-NO, I DON'T MIND! HONEST I DON'T! I WAS ONLY...ER.. ABOUT TO ASK FOR A LEAVE, THAT'S ALL! N-NOTHING IMPORTANT...I CAN WAIT...

AND SO...

HOW SOON CAN YOU ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION FOR ME, CAPTAIN?? I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY MITTS ON THAT RAT!

WHAT?!!

TELL ME, NICK. ARE YOU BUCKIN' FOR TROUBLE?

THIS MAN'S WAR ISN'T A PRIVATE FIGHT! NOW FORGET BARON STRUCKER AND GET BACK TO YOUR DUTIES!

YOU HEARD ME, SOLDIER! THERE'S A BIG PUSH COMING UP SOON, AND YOU AND THE HOWLERS ARE GOING TO LEAD THE ATTACK! I DON'T INTEND TO ASK IKE TO POSTPONE IT UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR OWN PRIVATE WAR! DO YOU READ ME, YOU BIG APE?

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, SAM!!

SAM? SAM? IT'S CAPTAIN SAWYER TO YOU, AND DON'T EVER FORGET IT! UNTIL THE DAY YOU STOP BEING SO PIG-HEADED AND ACCEPT ONE OF THOSE BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS YOU'RE ALWAYS TURNING DOWN, IT'LL ALWAYS BE CAPTAIN SAWYER TO YOU! NICK!! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!!

BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, SIR! I'M HEADIN' FOR THE NEAREST PUB, SIR! THAT IS, SIR, IF YOU DON'T THINK MY ABSENCE WILL LOSE THE WHOLE BLINKIN', BLAMED, BLASTED WAR FOR YOU ... SIR!!

DID YOU JUST HEAR AN AIR RAID SIREN, PETE?

NAH! THAT'S JUST FURY AND HAPPY-SAM SAWYER WHISPERIN' SWEET NOTHINGS TO EACH OTHER!

LATER, WE FIND ONE FRANTIC, FRUSTRATED FIGHTING MAN SHARING A TABLE WITH LADY PAMELA HAWLEY, THE LOVELY LIGHT OF HIS LIFE ...

IMAGINE HAPPY SAM TALKIN' THAT WAY TO ME, PAM! TO ME, WHO'S ALWAYS TAKEN' CARE OF HIM LIKE A BROTHER... I EVEN ONCE TOOK A SHAVE WHEN HE ASKED ME TO.

NICK FURY!! HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU THE PROPER WAY TO SIP YOUR TEA?!

AW, COME ON, PAM! HOW'S IT LOOK FOR A GROWN MAN TO HOLD A CUP LIKE THIS?!

ADORABLE, DEAR! NOW I'M PROUD OF YOU!

HEY, CHARLIE! I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' ALL OVER FOR YOU! WHERE'S THE MONEY YOU OWE ME?

WATCH OUT WHERE YA SHOVE THAT ELBOW, YOU DUMB-LOOKIN' CLOWN!

THUNK

HUH? WELL, WELL! SO YOU SPILLED YOUR ITTY-BITTY CUP OF TEA, DID YOU? DON'T WORRY, SONNY, YOU CAN WIPE IT UP WITH A LACE DOILY!

MISTER, YOU'RE JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED! I'M BEGINNIN' TO FEEL BETTER ALREADY!

PAM, BABY, WHY DON'T YOU GO POWDER YOUR NOSE, OR SOMETHIN'? IT AIN'T A PLEASANT SIGHT FOR A FEMALE TO SEE A GUY SPLATTERED ALL OVER THE LANDSCAPE!

HOLY HANNAH! IT..IT'S SERGEANT FURY! I-I'M SORRY, SARGE! I WAS ONLY KIDDIN', HONEST! I-I AIN'T LOOKIN' TO BE SHIPPED HOME IN A BOX!

NOW, NICK! REMEMBER WHAT I'LL TOLD YOU ABOUT LOSING YOUR TEMPER! LET ME SEE YOU APOLOGIZE LIKE A GENTLEMAN!

FORGIVE MY RASH, UNSEEMLY OUT-BURST, OLD CHAP! I HOPE YOU WON'T CONSIDER ME A COUTHLESS CAD!

OH, NICK! THE WORD IS UNCOUTH, NOT COUTH-LESS! BUT YOU'RE DOING BEAUTI-FULLY!

SH-SHE'S GOT HIM HYPNO-TIZED! BUT I GOTTA SCRAM BEFORE HE WAKES UP!

SEE HOW EASY IT IS TO BEHAVE LIKE A GENTLE-MAN? DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL MUCH BETTER?

BETTER THAN *WHAT?!*

LOOK, DOLL, ALL THIS CULTURE IS UPLIFTIN' AND ALL THAT, BUT IT AIN'T HELPIN' ME TO SETTLE MY SCORE WITH BARON STRUCKER! SO SUPPOSE I TAKE YOU HOME NOW, 'CAUSE I GOT A FEW THINGS TO ATTEND TO!

YE ROYALE DRAGOON

NICK! YOU... YOU DON'T INTEND TO DO ANYTHING *RASH*, DO YOU?

ME? OH, PERISH FORBID!

I JUST REMEMBERED THE CAPTAIN OF A BOAT WHO OWES ME A FAVOUR! IF I CAN FIND HIM BEFORE DARK...

LATER THAT NIGHT, A LONE, GRIM FIGURE WADES ASHORE ON THE ISOLATED ISLE OF NORSEHAVEN...

THIS IS THE PLACE! WITH LUCK I CAN POLISH STRUCKER OFF AND BE BACK BEFORE ANYONE MISSES ME!

BUT SUDDENLY...

WE HAFF BEEN *WAITING* FOR YOU, FURY!

WELL, WELL! A LITTLE NAZI WELCOME COMMITTEE, EH??

GET BACK TO YOUR WEINER-SCHNITZEL, CREEP! I AIN'T GOT TIME TO MESS AROUND WITH SMALL FRY! I'M LOOKIN' FOR BARON STRUCKER!

NO NEED FOR SUCH AN UNSEEMLY EXHIBITION, SERGEANT! I AM BARON STRUCKER, THE ONE WHO IS ABOUT TO REDUCE YOU TO A HELPLESS WHINING SHELL OF A MAN! ARE YOU READY??

YOU *BET* I'M READY, FRITZ! BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA BE JUST MAN TO MAN!

DO NOT LET MY AIDES DISTURB YOU, AMERIKANER! THEY ARE MERELY HERE TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE DUEL!

WE JUNKERS ARE A PROUD BREED! WE ARE GENTLEMEN! SOMETHING A SAVAGE LIKE *YOU* WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND!

YOU *TALK* A GOOD FIGHT, STRUCKER! NOW PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!

SO BE IT, YOU UNLETTERED OAF! *ACHTUNG!* GET THE FIELD OF COMBAT READY!

WHY ALL THE PRELIMINARIES, CURLY?? I'M READY TO TEAR INTO YOU *NOW!*

NEIN! WE FIGHT ACCORDING TO THE HEIDELBERG RULES! FIRST, A TOAST! ORDERLY... FILL THE GLASSES!

JAWOHL, MEIN HERR BARON!

WHAT A *DEAL!* IF YOU CUT YOURSELF, SOME FLUNKY PROBABLY *BLEEDS* FOR YOU!

ALL ISS SET, BARON! I PUT DER PILL IN HIS DRINK AS YOU ORDERED!

GOOD! ALTHOUGH I DO NOT *NEED* IT, THE WISE NAZI TAKES NO CHANCES!

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR DRINK, AMERIKANER! FOR IT MAY BE THE LAST ONE YOU EVER SIP!

KNOCK IT OFF, BULLET HEAD! YOU'RE SCARIN' ME TO DEATH! NOW LET'S *FIGHT!!*

THESE ARE HARD PLYWOOD SWORDS, FURY! THE PURPOSE IS TO *DISARM*, RATHER THAN KILL YOUR OPPONENT!

SURE, I KNOW *YOUR* STYLE, NAZI! FIRST YOU HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH YOUR VICTIM... THE DEADLY STUFF COMES LATER!

CLANG!

WELL, OTTO, YOU PICKED THE WRONG BOY THIS TIME!
WE SHALL SEE, SERGEANT! WE SHALL SEE!

AND SO BEGINS THE EPIC DUEL...
WHEW! HE'S FAST! I SIDESTEPPED JUST IN TIME!
YOU ARE AS CLUMSY AS I KNEW YOU'D BE, AMERIKANER!

MAYBE I DON'T KNOW ALL THE TRICKS YOU DO, BUT I'LL SURE KEEP YOU AT BAY LIKE THIS TILL I THINK OF SOMETHING!
SWISSHH!
SWISH HHH!
SWISSSHH!

PEASANT! IT IS EASY FOR A MASTER SWORDSMAN TO DUCK UNDER A SWINGING SWORD, AND THEN...
OOOF!

YEAH? WELL, IF I CAN'T OUT-FENCE YA, I CAN ALWAYS SHOVE YA AWAY!

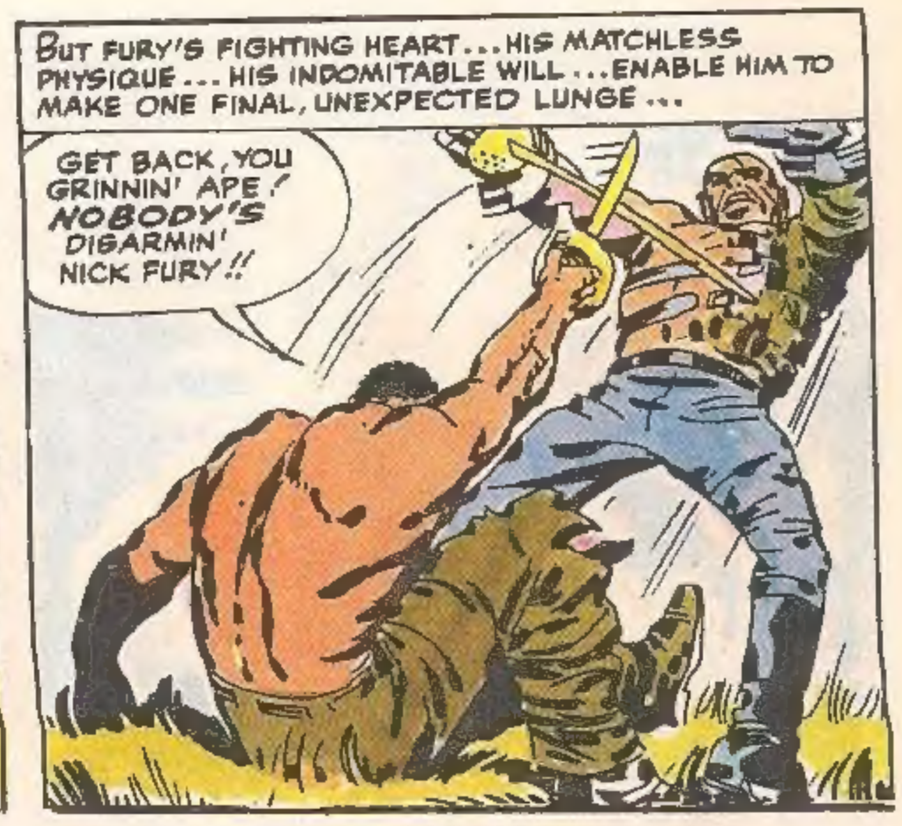
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN COUNT ON MY RAW MUSCLE POWER TO STOP HIS SKILL, BUT... HEY... WHAT'S WRONG?? I-I FEEL KINDA WEAK...
HAH!! YOUR STRENGTH IS FAILING!

THEN, AS FURY STEPS BACK TO AVOID STRUCKER'S LUNGE, A LONG POLE HELD BEHIND HIM CAUSES HIM TO LOSE BALANCE!
WHA..??
HAH! NOW..!

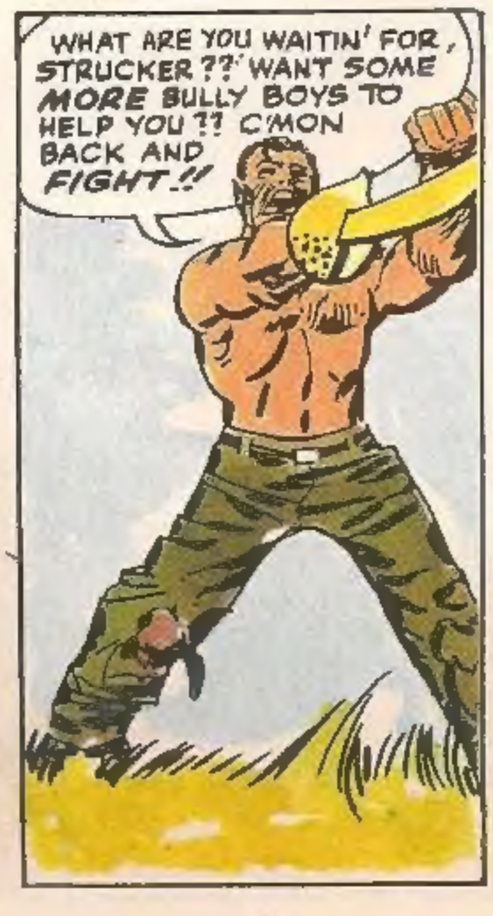
I MIGHTA KNOWN A NAZI COULDN'T FIGHT FAIR!!
BUT IF I FALL, I'M TAKIN' YOU WITH ME!!

HERE, HERR BARON!
WE BOTH DROPPED OUR SWORDS, BUT AS YOU SEE, I RECOVERED MINE FIRST!

YOU AND YOUR BIG TALK ABOUT HONOUR! YOU'RE JUST A... UGHH!
I AM MASTER OF ANY AMERIKANER! NOW I SHALL DISARM YOU!


BUT FURY'S FIGHTING HEART... HIS MATCHLESS PHYSIQUE... HIS INDOMITABLE WILL... ENABLE HIM TO MAKE ONE FINAL, UNEXPECTED LUNGE...
GET BACK, YOU GRINNIN' APE! NOBODY'S DISARMIN' NICK FURY!!

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO ME? CAN HARDLY STAND! HEAD'S SPINNIN'... DIZZY! BUT WHY...??
DER AMERIKANER ISS STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT, HERR BARON!
NO MATTER! THE POTION IS AFFECTING HIM NOW! HELP ME TO MY FEET! SCHNELL!!


WHAT ARE YOU WAITIN' FOR, STRUCKER?? WANT SOME MORE BULLY BOYS TO HELP YOU?? C'MON BACK AND FIGHT!!

IF YOU'RE WAITIN' FOR ME TO GIVE UP, YOU'RE WASTIN' YOUR TIME!
I'LL FIGHT YOU TILL I DROP, DO YOU HEAR?

TILL I... DROP!
IT ISS FINISHED! YOU HAFF WON HERR BARON!

SUDDENLY, FROM THEIR PLACES OF CONCEALMENT, A BATTERY OF UNIFORMED CAMERAMEN AND PROPAGANDA SPECIALISTS APPEAR, GETTING TO WORK WITH TYPICAL NAZI EFFICIENCY!

START EDITING DER FILMS! ERASE ALL PORTIONS WHICH SHOW ANYONE HELPING DER BARON!

SOMETIME LATER, A SPEEDING GERMAN JU-52 STREAKS ACROSS BRITAIN, HURLING A PRISONER EARTHWARD BY PARACHUTE AT A PREDESIGNATED SPOT...

SO! NOW YOU MAY JOIN YOUR VERDAMNDTE COMMANDOS!! WE HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR YOU!! WE SHALL SPARE YOUR LIFE AND ALLOW YOU TO RETURN IN DISGRACE!

FINALLY, IN CAPTAIN "HAPPY SAM" SAWYER'S ORDERLY ROOM...

WE FOUND HIM HALF-CONSCIOUS IN THE MARSHES, CAPTAIN!

YOU DISOBEYED, DID YOU?! YOU IGNORED MY ORDERS, AND SNEAKED OFF TO TANGLE WITH STRUCKER, EH?? WELL, YOU'RE GONNA LIVE TO REGRET IT, SOLDIER!

LOOK AT THESE NAZI PAPERS! LOOK AT THE PICTURES... YOUR PICTURES... PLASTERED ALL OVER THEM! THEY'VE MADE YOU A LAUGHING STOCK! "TOUGH COMMANDO SERGEANT CLOBBERED BY NAZI OFFICER"!!

SO THAT WAS THE PURPOSE...!

THANKS TO YOUR WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE OF ORDERS, YOU'VE HANDED THE NAZIS THEIR BIGGEST PROPAGANDA VICTORY IN MONTHS! NOW AREN'T YOU PROUD OF YOURSELF, FURY??

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, CAPTAIN...

WELL, I DO! I SAY YOU'RE BUSTED, SOLDIER! YOU'RE JUST PLAIN PRIVATE FURY NOW... AND YOU'RE LUCKY WE NEED EVERY MAN, OR YOU'D SIT OUT THE REST OF THE WAR IN THE GUARDHOUSE!

R-RIP!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE TALKING THIS WAY TO YOU, NICK! NOT TO THE MAN WHO... WHO... SNIFF...

YES, SIR... CAPTAIN!

GET OUT OF HERE, SOLDIER! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!

LATER THAT DAY... CORPORAL DUM-DUM DUGAN, THE RANKING NON-COM OF THE FIRST ATTACK SQUAD OF ABLE COMPANY, TAKES HIS HOWLERS OUT FOR AN AIRING!

HUP TUP THRUP FOUR! HUP TUP THRUP FOUR!

C'MON, YOU GOLD-BRICKS! GET THE LEAD OUT! LIFT THOSE GUNBOATS! THIS AIN'T A BLINKIN' PICNIC!

COMPARED TO FURY, DUM-DUM SOUNDS LIKE HE'S WHISPERIN'!!

YEAH, REB! I FEEL LIKE I'M LISTEN-IN' TO A SWEET LITTLE LULLA-BY!

LOOK ALIVE, YOU DEADHEADS! EVEN MY BALL AND CHAIN, BLESS HER POINTY LITTLE HEAD, IS A BETTER SOLDIER THAN YOU SLOBS!

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW, DUM DUM? YOU AIN'T BEEN HOME TO SEE HER IN TWENTY YEARS!!!

I DON'T EVEN THINK HE'S GOT A WIFE!

WHAT GAL WOULD CALL HER-SELF "MRS. DUM DUM"?

SAY, NICK! I NOTICE YOU'VE BEEN DRAGGIN' YOUR FEET...

I WAS EXPECTING THIS! NOW THAT I'VE LOST MY STRIPES, THIS IS THEIR CHANCE TO PAY ME BACK FOR BEIN' SO TOUGH ON THEM! WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME 'EM! I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT!

MAYBE YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, FELLA? IF YOU WANT, WE CAN TAKE A BREAK FOR A WHILE! IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO REST UP! WANT ME TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR PACK, NICK?

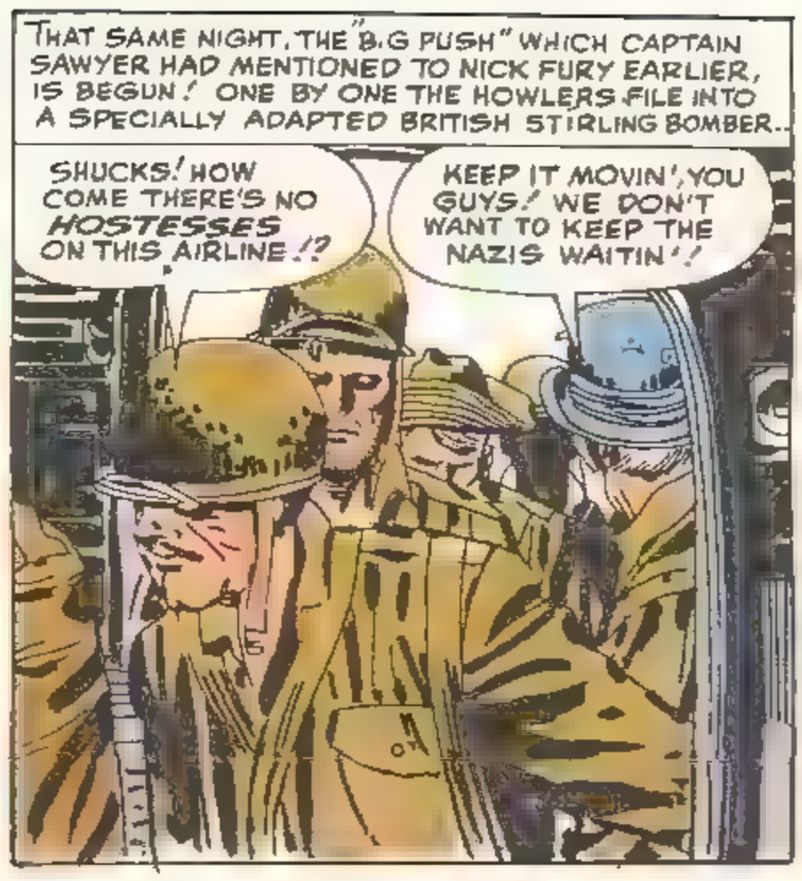
I'LL BE GLAD TO CARRY IT, NICK?! YOU CAN HAVE MY BUGLE, INSTEAD!

HERE, SARGE... WANT A SIP OUT OF MY CANTEEN?

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU CREEPS, ANYWAY?? I AIN'T "SARGE" ANYMORE!! I'M JUST PRIVATE FURY! NOW GET THAT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULLS!!

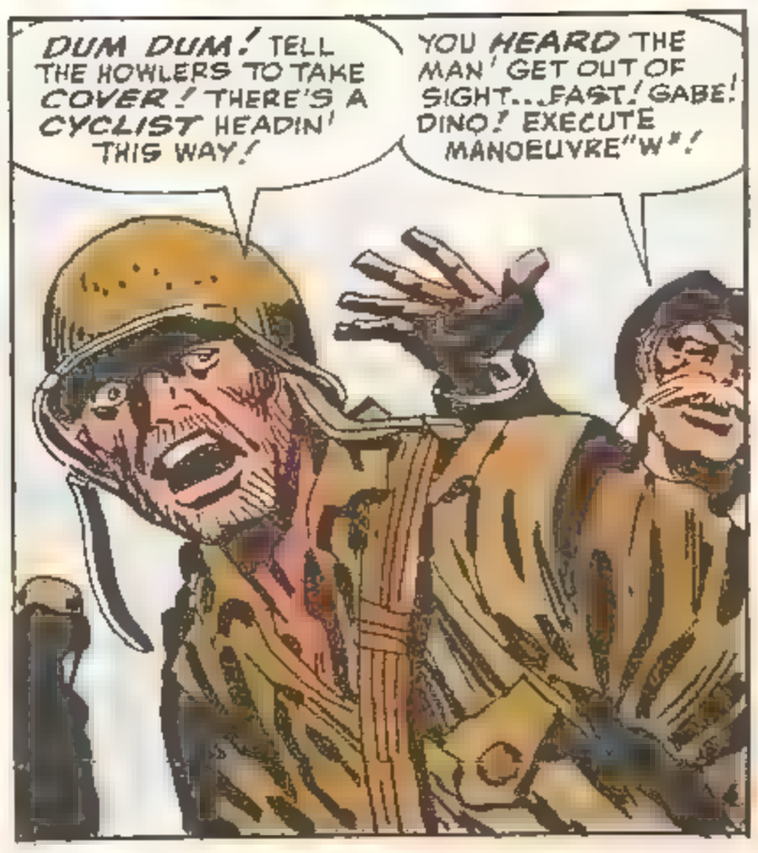
AND NICK FURY DOESN'T NEED ANY HELP... OR ANY SYMPATHY EITHER! SO STICK TO YOUR SOLDIERIN' AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS! OR DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?!!

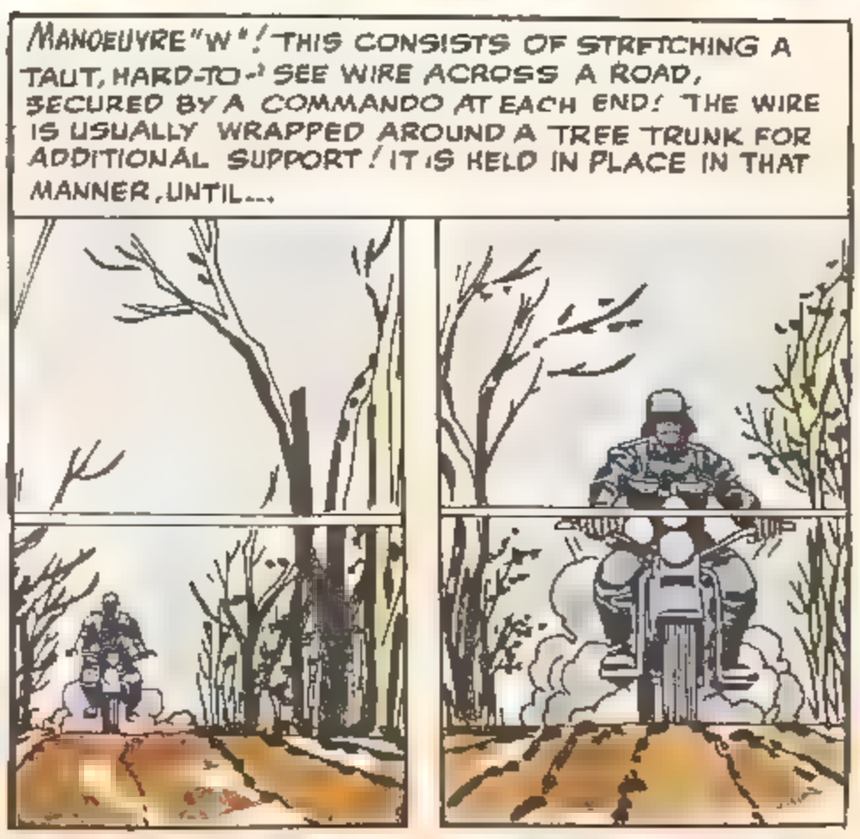
MAN! DID YOU HEAR HIM BELLOW?? JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!
IT WAS JUST LIKE MUSIC TO MY SHELL-LIKE EARS!
OKAY, YOU HEROES! NOW THAT WE CLEARED THE AIR...LET'S JUST TAKE US A LITTLE FIVE MILE TROT BACK TO CAMP... DOUBLE-TIME! FOLLOW ME!
SURE! SOMEONE'S GOTTA CATCH YOU WHEN YOU FALL ON YOUR FACE, HEAR?

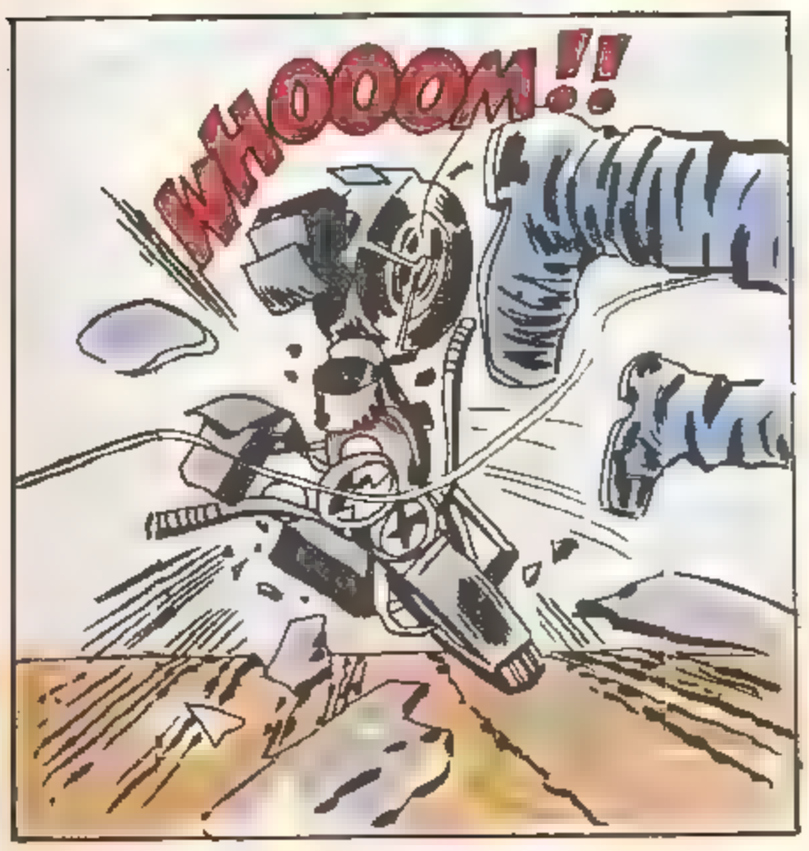

THAT SAME NIGHT, THE "B.G PUSH" WHICH CAPTAIN SAWYER HAD MENTIONED TO NICK FURY EARLIER, IS BEGUN! ONE BY ONE THE HOWLERS FILE INTO A SPECIALLY ADAPTED BRITISH STIRLING BOMBER..
SHUCKS! HOW COME THERE'S NO HOSTESSES ON THIS AIRLINE!?
KEEP IT MOVIN', YOU GUYS! WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE NAZIS WAITIN'!

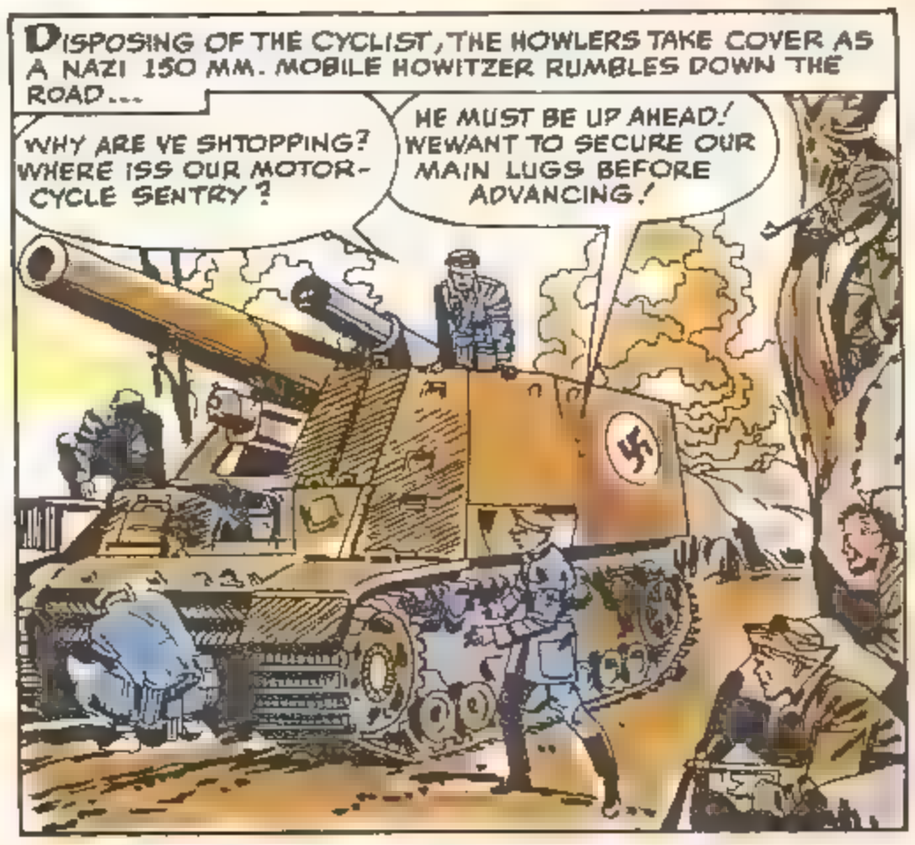
AND, OVER A SECLUDED FOREST NEAR THE HEAVILY GUARDED TOWN OF DORTSTADT, SIX BATTLE-HARDENED MEN PARACHUTE TO EARTH...
OH, IF I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL...
SHUDDUP, YOU CLOWN!

KEEP MOVIN', YOU GUYS! REMEMEMBER, OUR JOB IS TO FIND THE ROCKET BASE AT DORTSTADT AND KNOCK IT OUT BY THE TIME THE INFANTRY FINISHES ITS PUSH!
THAT'S ALL?!! AND WHAT DO THEY'ALL EXPECT US TO DO WHILE WE'RE RESTIN'??


DUM DUM! TELL THE HOWLERS TO TAKE COVER! THERE'S A CYCLIST HEADIN' THIS WAY!
YOU HEARD THE MAN! GET OUT OF SIGHT...FAST! GABE! DINO! EXECUTE MANOEUVRE "W"!


MANOEUVRE "W"! THIS CONSISTS OF STRETCHING A TAUT, HARD-TO-SEE WIRE ACROSS A ROAD, SECURED BY A COMMANDO AT EACH END! THE WIRE IS USUALLY WRAPPED AROUND A TREE TRUNK FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT! IT IS HELD IN PLACE IN THAT MANNER, UNTIL...


WHOOOM!!


DISPOSING OF THE CYCLIST, THE HOWLERS TAKE COVER AS A NAZI 150 MM. MOBILE HOWITZER RUMBLES DOWN THE ROAD...
WHY ARE VE SHTOPPING? WHERE ISS OUR MOTORCYCLE SENTRY?
HE MUST BE UP AHEAD! WEWANT TO SECURE OUR MAIN LUGS BEFORE ADVANCING!

SUDDENLY, FURY'S HELMET, DANGLING BY ITS STRAP, FALLS TO THE GROUND AS THE LOOSENED STRAP SNAPS OPEN...
WAS IST LOS?
AN AMERIKANER HELMET!!
CLANG!

SOUND OFF, YOU HOWLERS!!
WAH-HOOO!

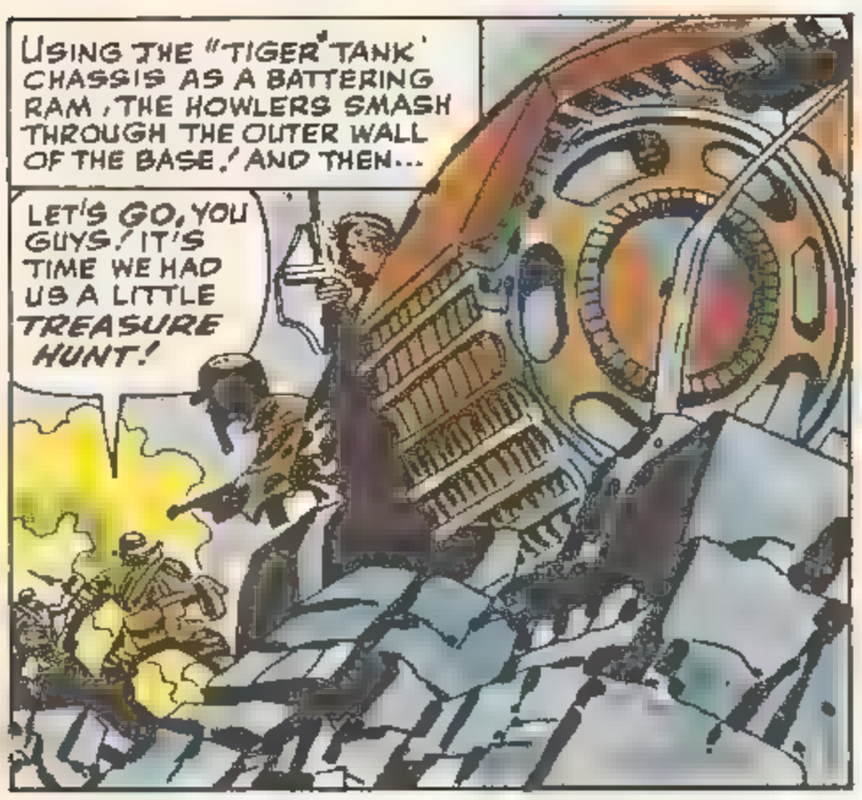
MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE DUST HAS CLEARED...
NOT BAD! NOW WE'LL HEAD FOR THE ROCKET BASE AT DORTSTADT IN STYLE!!

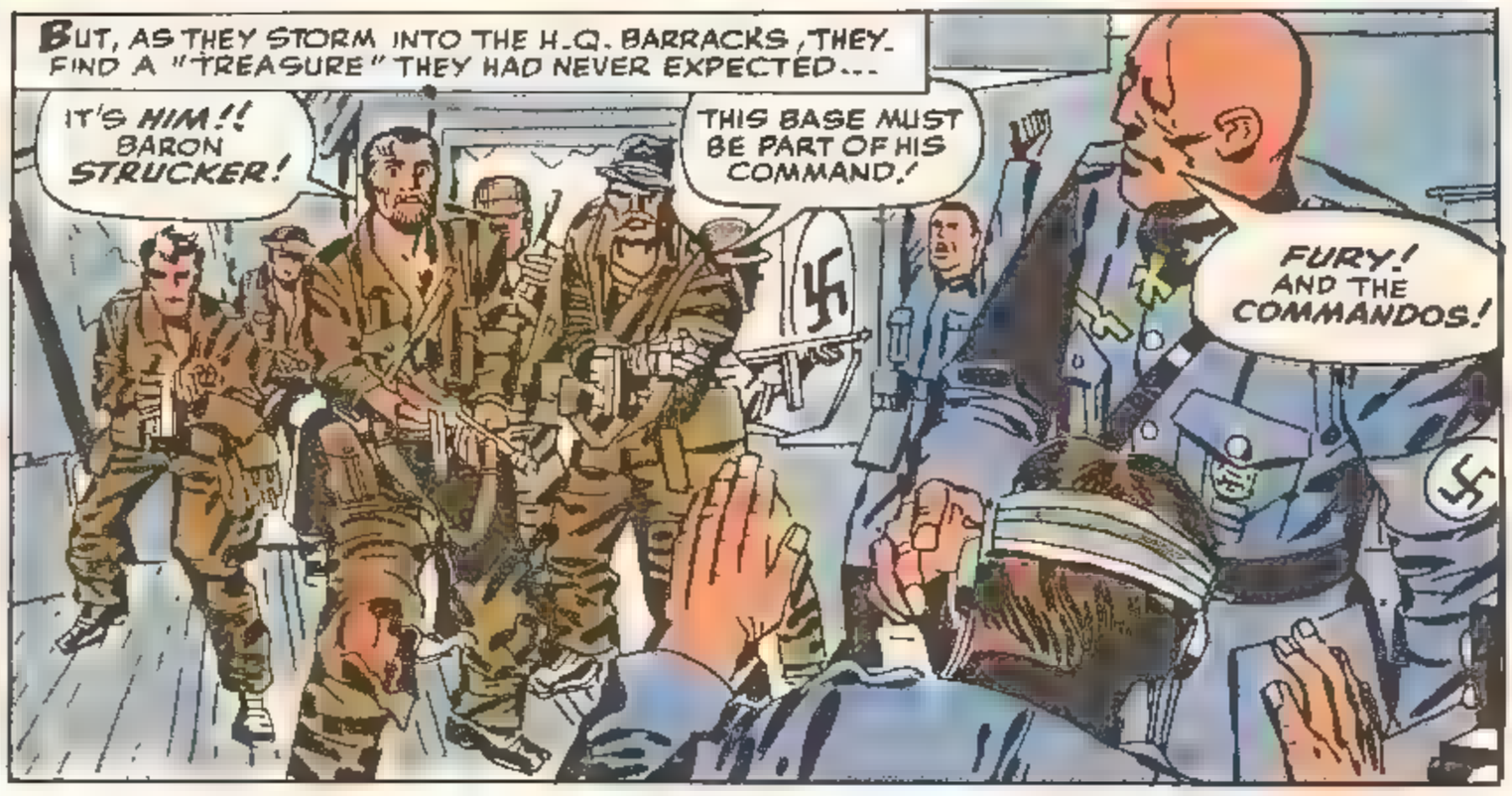
A SHORT TIME LATER, THE ROCKET BASE AT DORTSTADT IS ROCKED BY A MYSTERIOUS, DAMAGING EXPLOSION !!

WITHIN MINUTES THE BASE IS RENDERED INOPERATIVE, AS THE RADAR IS COMPLETELY DESTROYED!

...AND THE PLANES, USED FOR AIR COVER, ARE SHATTERED BEFORE THEY CAN LEAVE THE GROUND !!

YOU SHOOT PRETTY GOOD FOR A NORTHERNER, DINO!
NOTHIN' LIKE PASTIN' THE NAZIS WITH THEIR OWN HOWITZER AND THEIR OWN AMMO!
THEY STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM! WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL DO A LITTLE MOPPIN' UP WHILE WE'RE HERE!
THEIR H.Q. BARRACKS IS JUST AHEAD! WHY DON'T WE PAY 'EM A PERSONAL VISIT?


USING THE "TIGER" TANK CHASSIS AS A BATTERING RAM, THE HOWLERS SMASH THROUGH THE OUTER WALL OF THE BASE! AND THEN...
LET'S GO, YOU GUYS! IT'S TIME WE HAD US A LITTLE TREASURE HUNT!

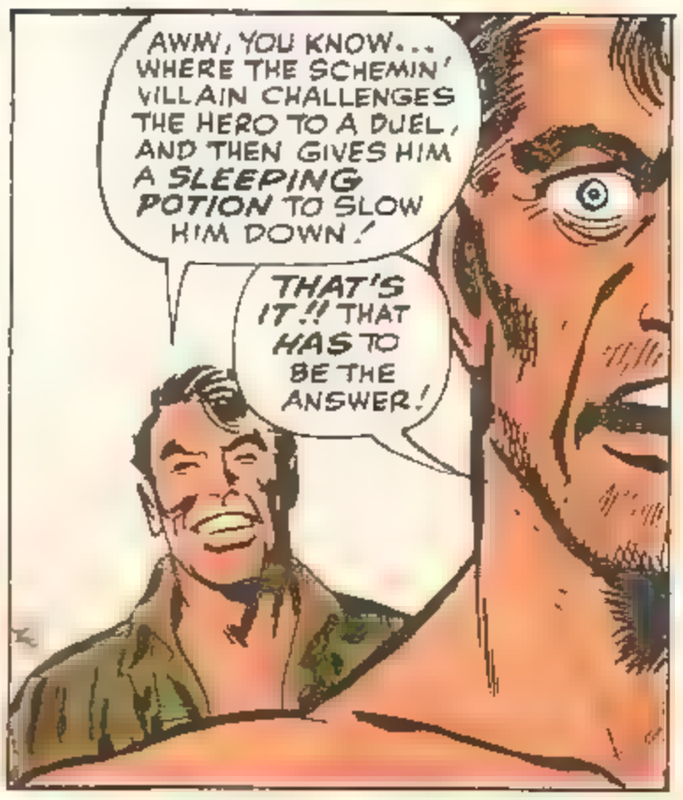

BUT, AS THEY STORM INTO THE H.Q. BARRACKS, THEY FIND A "TREASURE" THEY HAD NEVER EXPECTED...
IT'S HIM!! BARON STRUCKER!
THIS BASE MUST BE PART OF HIS COMMAND!
FURY! AND THE COMMANDOS!

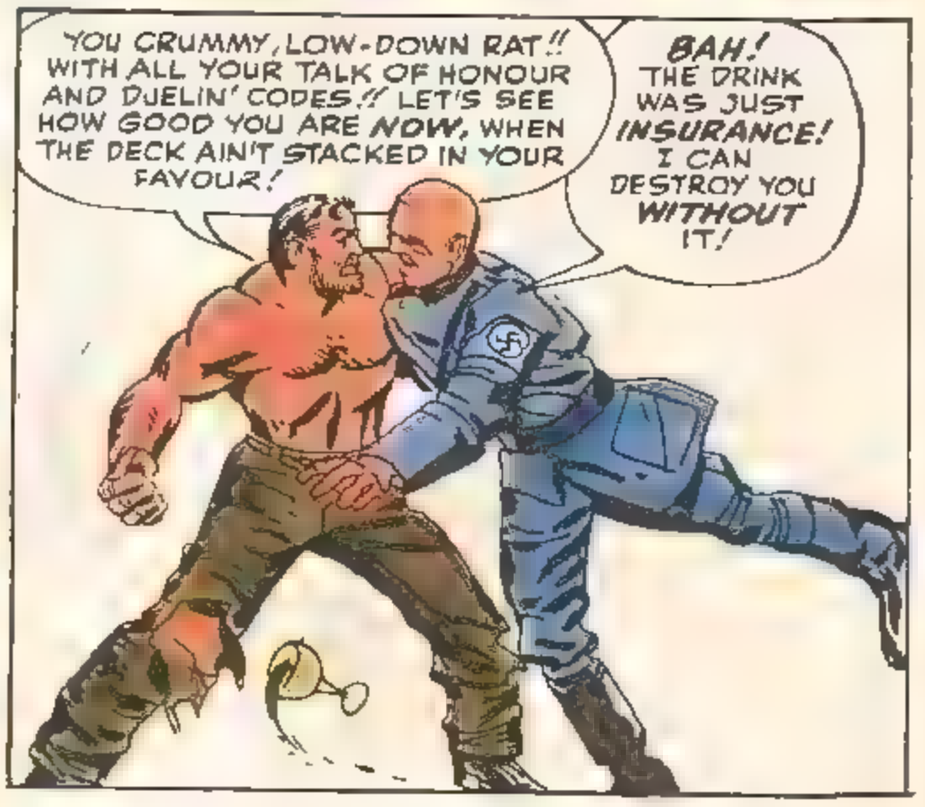
EASY, NICK! HEY DUM DUM, HELP ME HOLD HIM!
WHAT FOR, DINO? I FIGURE FURY'S GOT HIS INNINGS COMING TO HIM!
LET GO OF ME! LET ME AT HIM! HE'S MINE, D'YOU HEAR??
I WOULD BE HAPPY TO FIGHT YOU AGAIN, AMERIKANER!

BUT THIS TIME I WOULD NOT BE SO MERCIFUL! THIS TIME IT WOULD BE TO THE FINISH!
THAT'S JUST THE WAY I WANT IT, MISTER!
BUT, NICK.. HE LICKED YOU BEFORE! WHAT IF...?
A GUY CAN ONLY DIE ONCE, CAN'T HE!?

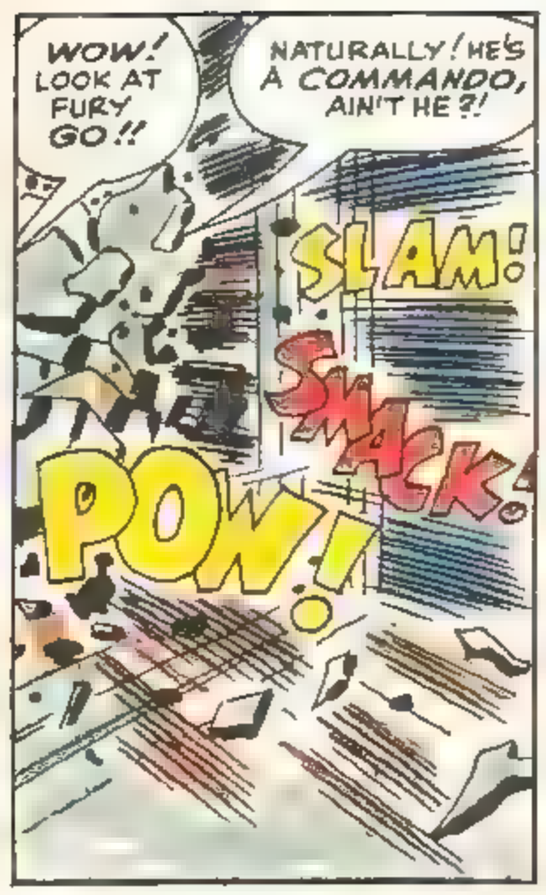
FIRST, WE SHALL DRINK A TOAST AGAIN, LIKE GENTLEMEN!
SURE! SURE! ANYTHING! JUST SO'S I GET MY HANDS ON YOU AGAIN!

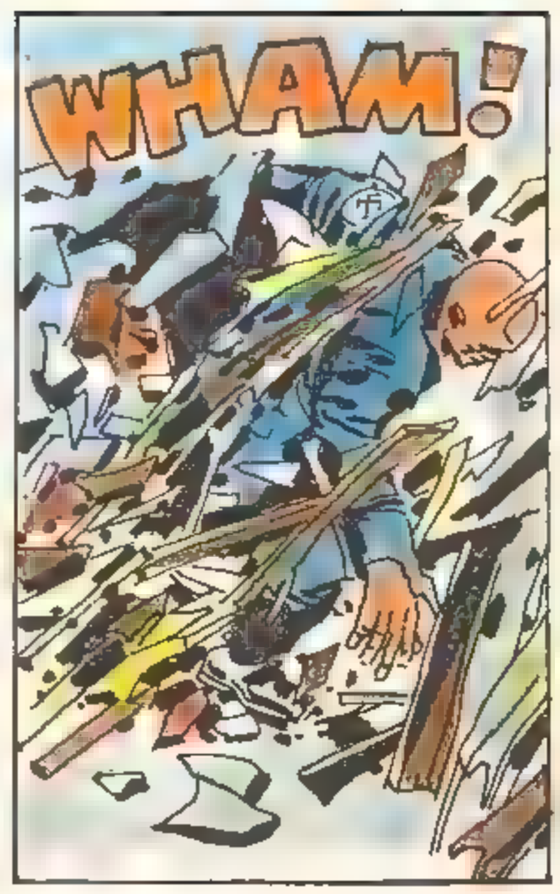
QUIT CLOWNIN', NICK! YOU KNOW THE REASON FOR THE TOAST, DON'T YOU? I'VE PLAYED THIS SCENE IN "B" MOVIES A DOZEN TIMES!
HUH? WHAT SCENE??


AWW, YOU KNOW... WHERE THE SCHEMIN' VILLAIN CHALLENGES THE HERO TO A DUEL, AND THEN GIVES HIM A SLEEPING POTION TO SLOW HIM DOWN!
THAT'S IT!! THAT HAS TO BE THE ANSWER!

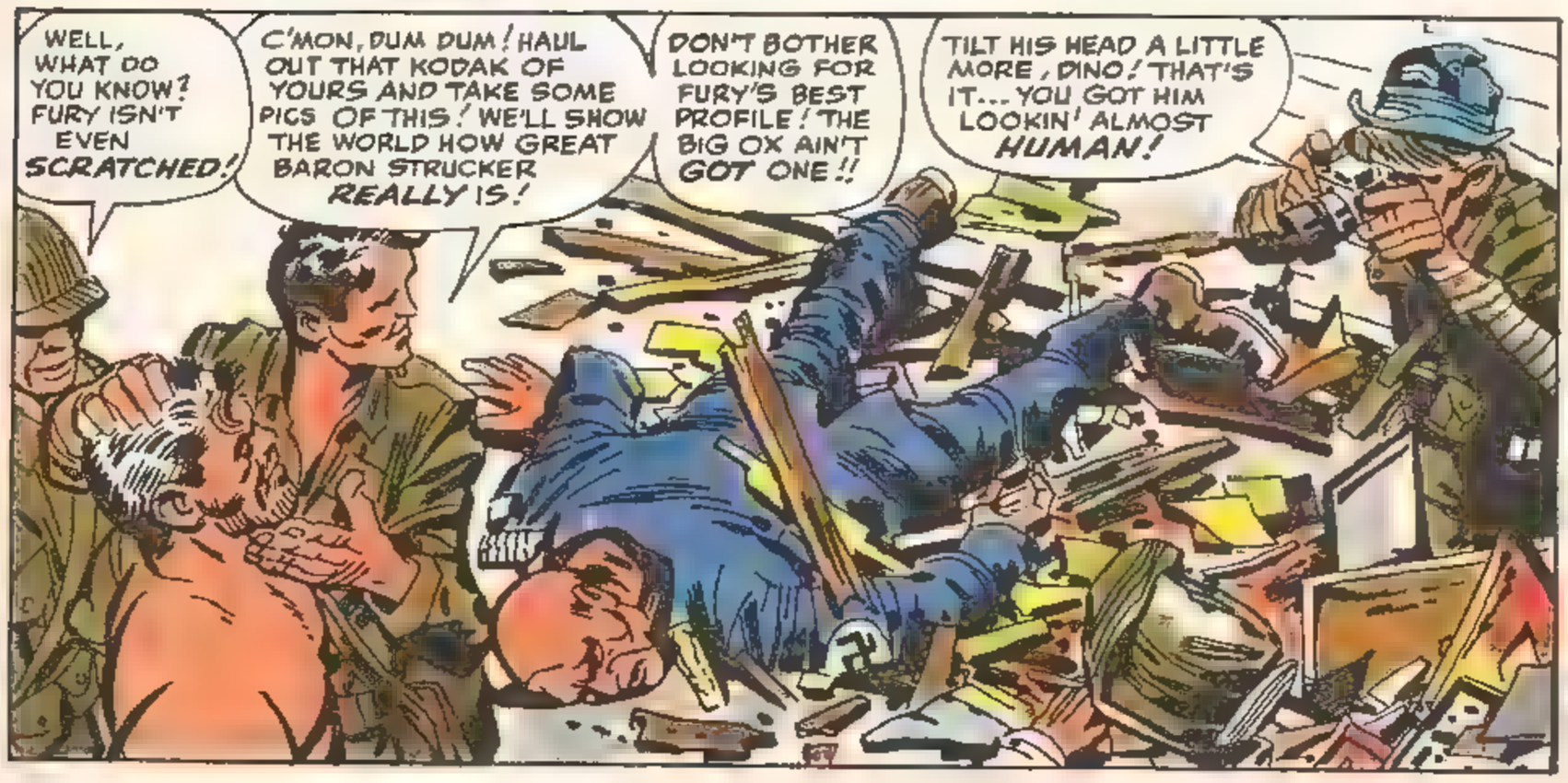

YOU CRUMMY, LOW-DOWN RAT!! WITH ALL YOUR TALK OF HONOUR AND DUELIN' CODES!! LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE NOW, WHEN THE DECK AIN'T STACKED IN YOUR FAVOUR!
BAH! THE DRINK WAS JUST INSURANCE! I CAN DESTROY YOU WITHOUT IT!

YEAH? HOW? LIKE THIS?? OR MAYBE WITH A PUNCH LIKE THIS?? TELL ME, NAZI! I'M DYIN' TO FIND OUT!

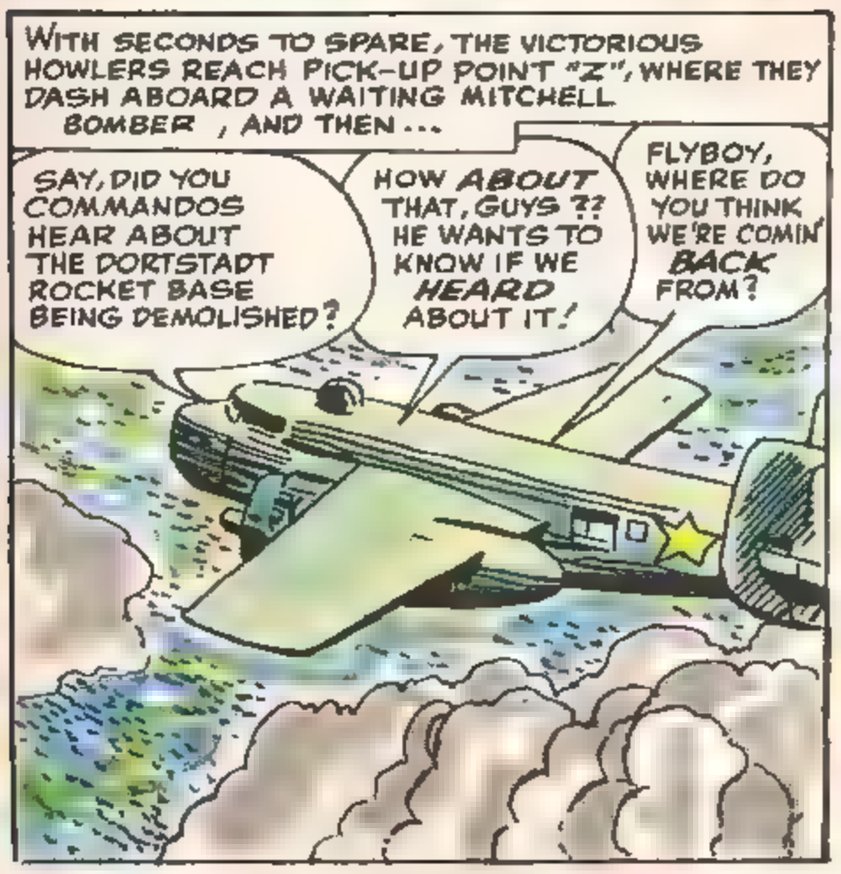

WOW! LOOK AT FURY GO!!
NATURALLY! HE'S A COMMANDO, AIN'T HE?!
SLAM!
SMACK!
POW!

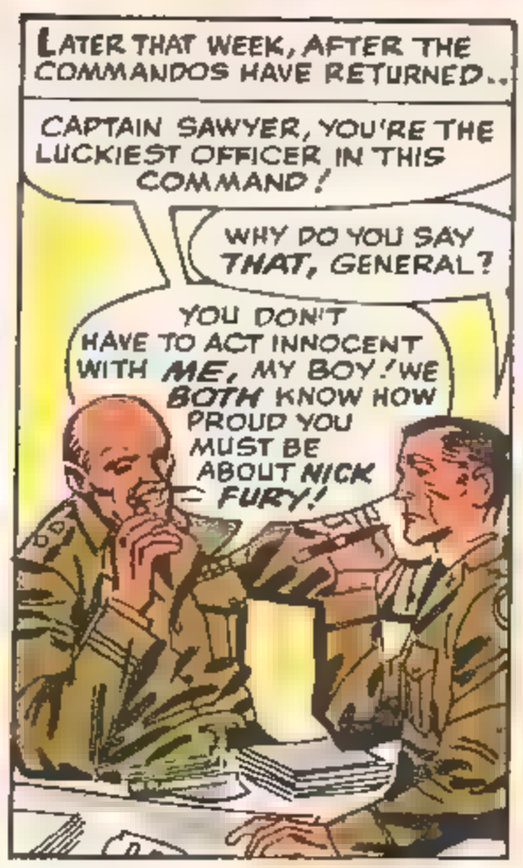

WHAM!

GET UP, YOU, YELLOW HYENA!! GET UP, AND TELL ME AGAIN HOW YOU CAN BEAT ANY AMERICAN!!
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU, NICK! ALL HE CAN HEAR NOW IS THE SWEET SINGIN' OF A THOUSAND LITTLE BIRDIES!!


WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? FURY ISN'T EVEN SCRATCHED!
C'MON, DUM DUM! HAUL OUT THAT KODAK OF YOURS AND TAKE SOME PICS OF THIS! WE'LL SHOW THE WORLD HOW GREAT BARON STRUCKER REALLY IS!
DON'T BOTHER LOOKING FOR FURY'S BEST PROFILE! THE BIG OX AIN'T GOT ONE!!
TILT HIS HEAD A LITTLE MORE, DINO! THAT'S IT... YOU GOT HIM LOOKIN' ALMOST HUMAN!

A FINE THING! YOU'RE HAVIN' A PARTY IN HERE WHILE OLD IZ KEEPS GUARD OUTSIDE! WELL, KIDDIES, THE PARTY'S OVER!
BRRRAAAP!
HEAD FOR THE RENDEZ-VOUS POINT ... FAST!! HALF THE GERMAN ARMY IS ON MY HEELS!!

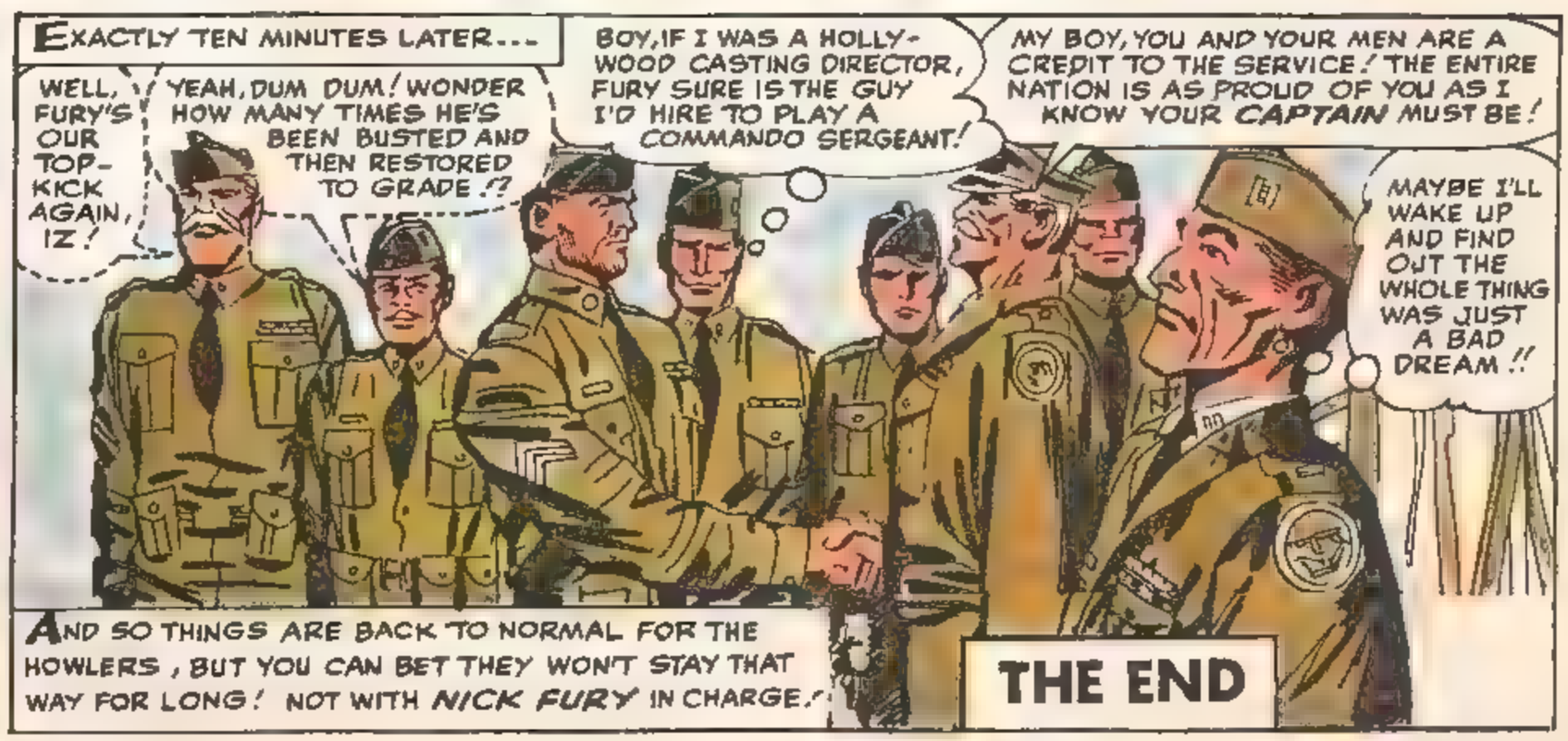

WITH SECONDS TO SPARE, THE VICTORIOUS HOWLERS REACH PICK-UP POINT "Z", WHERE THEY DASH ABOARD A WAITING MITCHELL BOMBER, AND THEN...
SAY, DID YOU COMMANDOS HEAR ABOUT THE DORTSTADT ROCKET BASE BEING DEMOLISHED?
HOW ABOUT THAT, GUYS?? HE WANTS TO KNOW IF WE HEARD ABOUT IT!
FLYBOY, WHERE DO YOU THINK WE'RE COMIN' BACK FROM?


LATER THAT WEEK, AFTER THE COMMANDOS HAVE RETURNED...
CAPTAIN SAWYER, YOU'RE THE LUCKIEST OFFICER IN THIS COMMAND!
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT, GENERAL?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT INNOCENT WITH ME, MY BOY! WE BOTH KNOW HOW PROUD YOU MUST BE ABOUT NICK FURY!

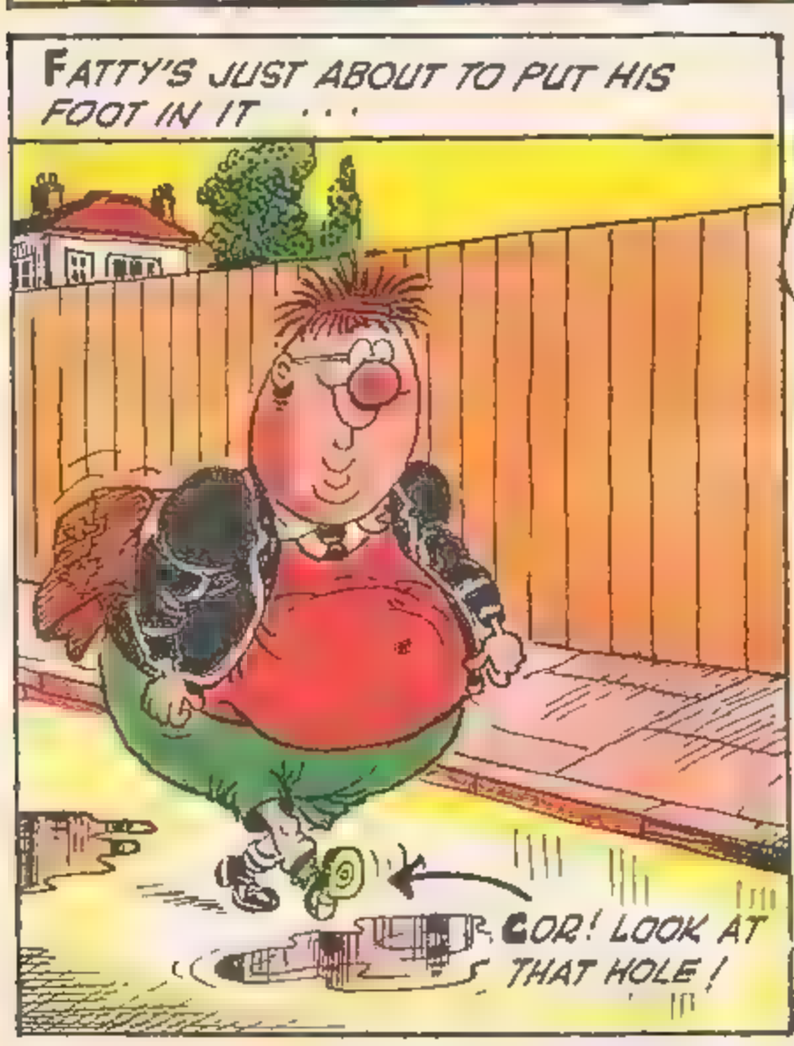
YOU SLY OLD FOX! YOU'RE THE ENVY OF THE ENTIRE GENERAL STAFF! ANY OF US WOULD GIVE OUR EYE-TEETH TO HAVE A NON-COM LIKE FURY UNDER US!
WELL, DON'T KEEP ME WAITING, MAN! WHEN AM I GOING TO MEET THE MOST FAMOUS SERGEANT IN THIS SECTOR?

IN A MINUTE, GENERAL! WAIT RIGHT THERE, SIR! THERE'S... ULP!... JUST ONE LITTLE THING I HAVE TO ATTEND TO!
A FINE OFFICER THAT CAPTAIN SAWYER! AND A WONDERFUL JUDGE OF MEN... KEEPING FURY IN CHARGE OF THE HOWLING COMMANDOS!

DUM-DUM! GABE! REBEL!! ALL OF YOU! INTO YOUR CLASS "A" DUDS... ON THE DOUBLE!!
AND SOMEONE GET ME A SET OF SERGEANT STRIPES! AND I DON'T MEAN LATER! I MEAN NOW!

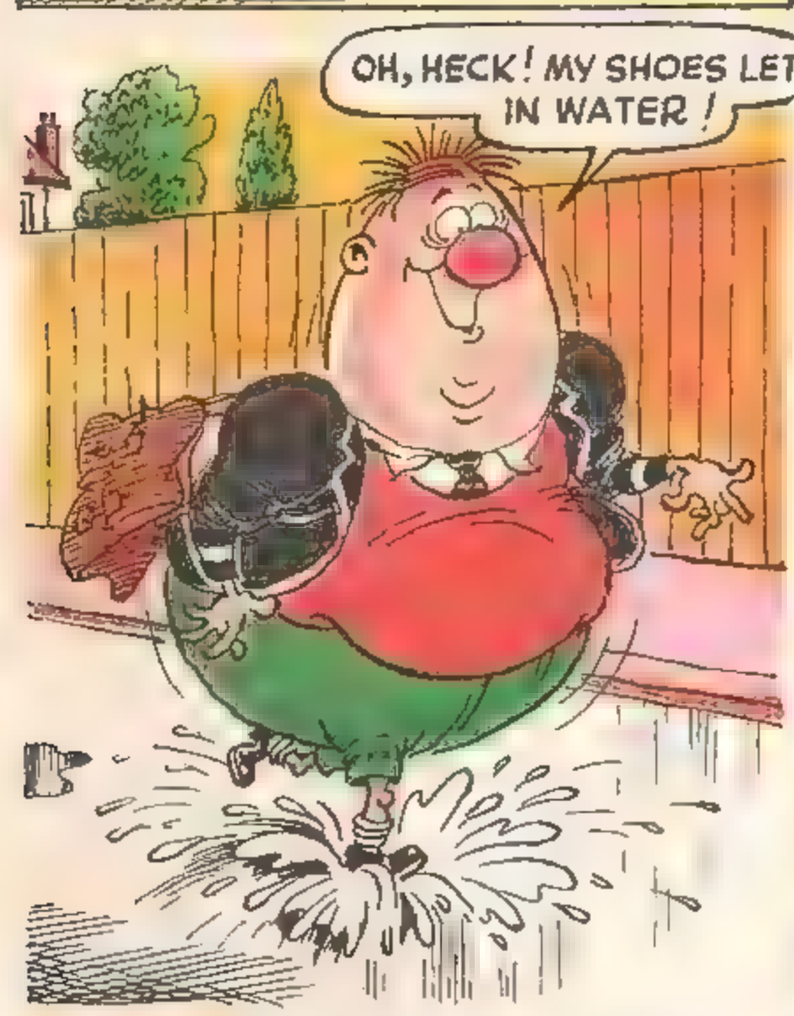

EXACTLY TEN MINUTES LATER...
WELL, FURY'S OUR TOP-KICK AGAIN, IZ!
YEAH, DUM DUM! WONDER HOW MANY TIMES HE'S BEEN BUSTED AND THEN RESTORED TO GRADE!?
BOY, IF I WAS A HOLLYWOOD CASTING DIRECTOR, FURY SURE IS THE GUY I'D HIRE TO PLAY A COMMANDO SERGEANT!
MY BOY, YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE A CREDIT TO THE SERVICE! THE ENTIRE NATION IS AS PROUD OF YOU AS I KNOW YOUR CAPTAIN MUST BE!
MAYBE I'LL WAKE UP AND FIND OUT THE WHOLE THING WAS JUST A BAD DREAM!!
AND SO THINGS ARE BACK TO NORMAL FOR THE HOWLERS, BUT YOU CAN BET THEY WON'T STAY THAT WAY FOR LONG! NOT WITH NICK FURY IN CHARGE!
THE END

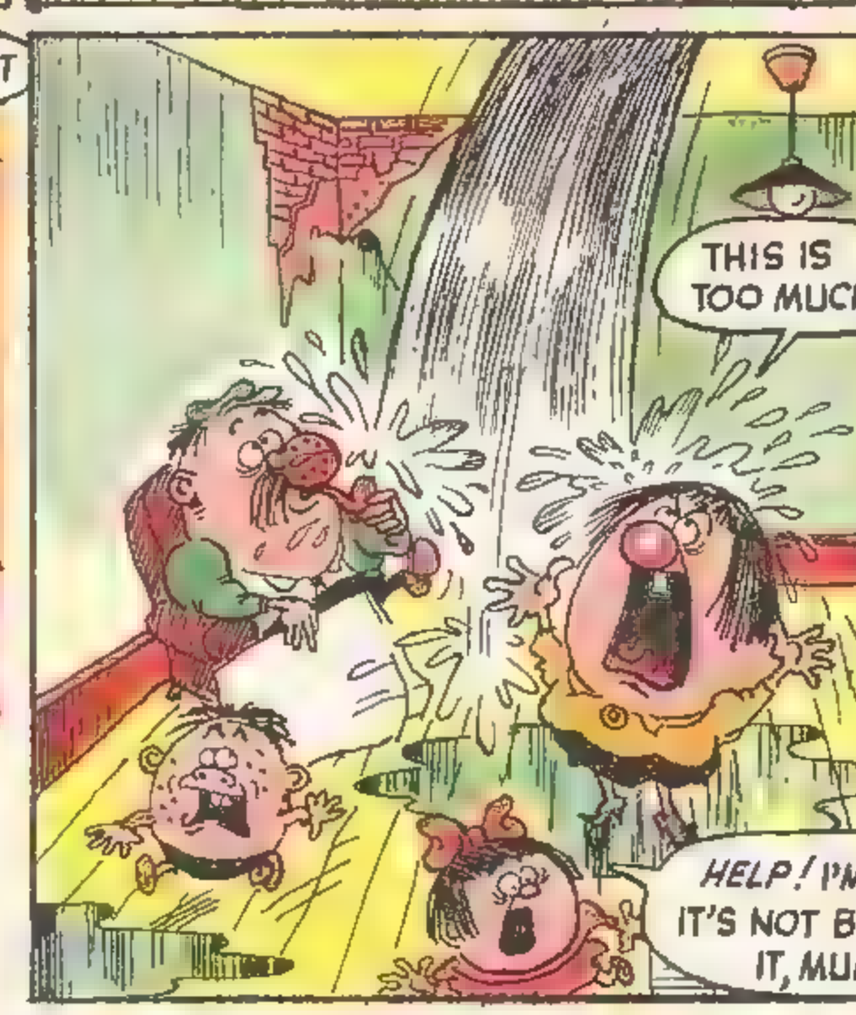
THE NERVS


FATTY'S JUST ABOUT TO PUT HIS FOOT IN IT . . .
COR! LOOK AT THAT HOLE!

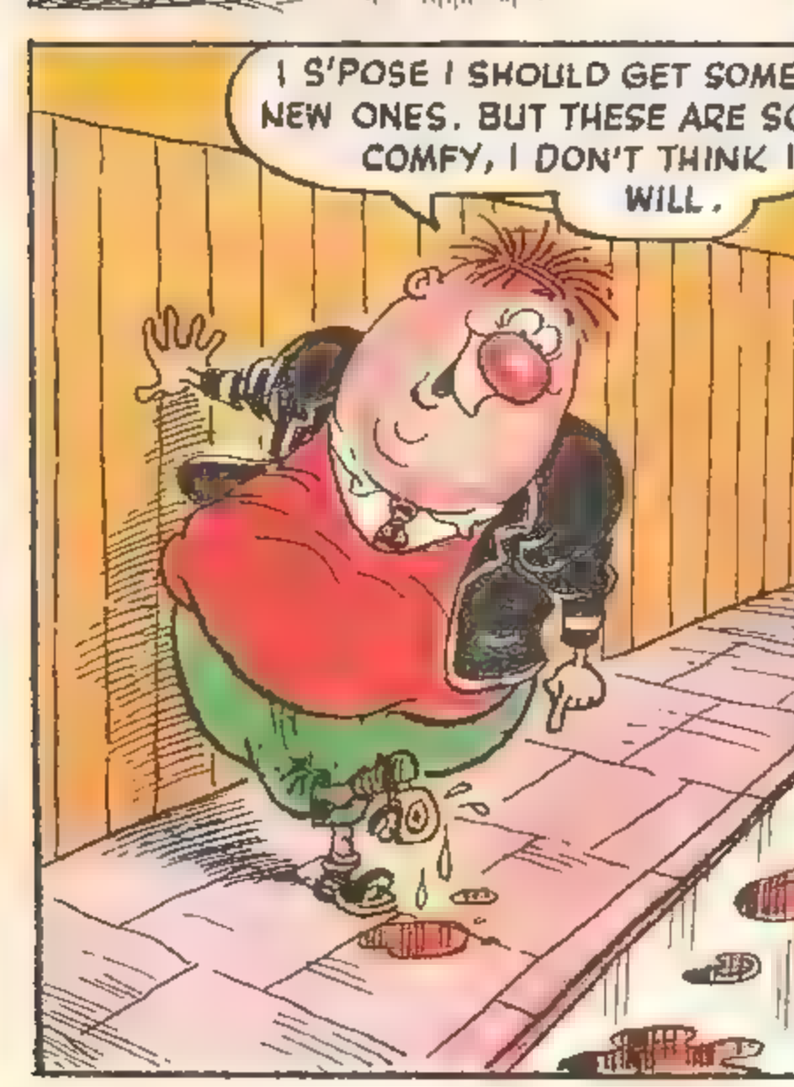
IN THE HOLE THE TOE NERVS CALL HOME . . .
JUST LOOK AT THIS DUMP! WHEN YOU GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
ER?

EVEN THE R.S.P.C.A WOULDN'T LET US KEEP PIGS IN IT!
OH, YES THEY DID! IT WAS THE GRUB WE GAVE 'EM THEY OBJECTED TO!
GO ON, GIVE IT TO 'IM, MUM! DEAD LAZY!


OH, HECK! MY SHOES LET IN WATER!


THIS IS TOO MUCH!
HELP! I'M DROWNIN'! IT'S NOT BARF NIGHT, IS IT, MUM?

THAT DOES IT! GET CRACKIN' ON SOME REPAIRS, YOU LAZY BIG TOE NERV!


I S'POSE I SHOULD GET SOME NEW ONES. BUT THESE ARE SO COMFY, I DON'T THINK I WILL.

I'LL GIVE OL' FATTY'S TOE NAILS A BASHING. THAT MIGHT DO SOMETHING!
NOT TOO HARD!
YOU'RE RIGHT, MUM, 'E MIGHT GIVE OL' FATTY THE SCREWS!

COR! IT'S GONE RIGHT THROUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
PHEW! I'M PLASTERED!

THAT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HAD DECENT SHOES, FATTY!

OUCH!

C'MON! ROUND TO THE COUNCIL WE GO! THEY'LL 'AVE TO MAKE FATTY DO SOMETHING!

ER!

TWO LARGE FLAT FEET FOR SALE

ALL MOD CORNS

'COURSE, YOU MUST REALISE ACCOMODATION IS TIGHT AT THE MOMENT!

TIGHT! IT'S BLOOMIN' WET AS WELL!

WE WANT A NICE, MODERN PLACE, SEE? SO GET OL' FATTY CRACKIN'!

SHOES

WINKLE PICKERS! COR! JUST WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!

CAREFUL, 'ARRY! A BIT TOWARDS ME!

IT'LL BE A TIGHT SQUEEZE, MATE!

HEE! HEE! I'VE HAD 'EM IN STOCK FOR FIVE YEARS — THEN ALONG COMES THIS MUG!

COO, SMASHIN'! AND A NICE, SNUG FIT, TOO!

BLOOMIN' FINE PLACE FATTY'S FOUND US! NOT ENOUGH ROOM TO SWING A CAT!

WHAT A DUMP!

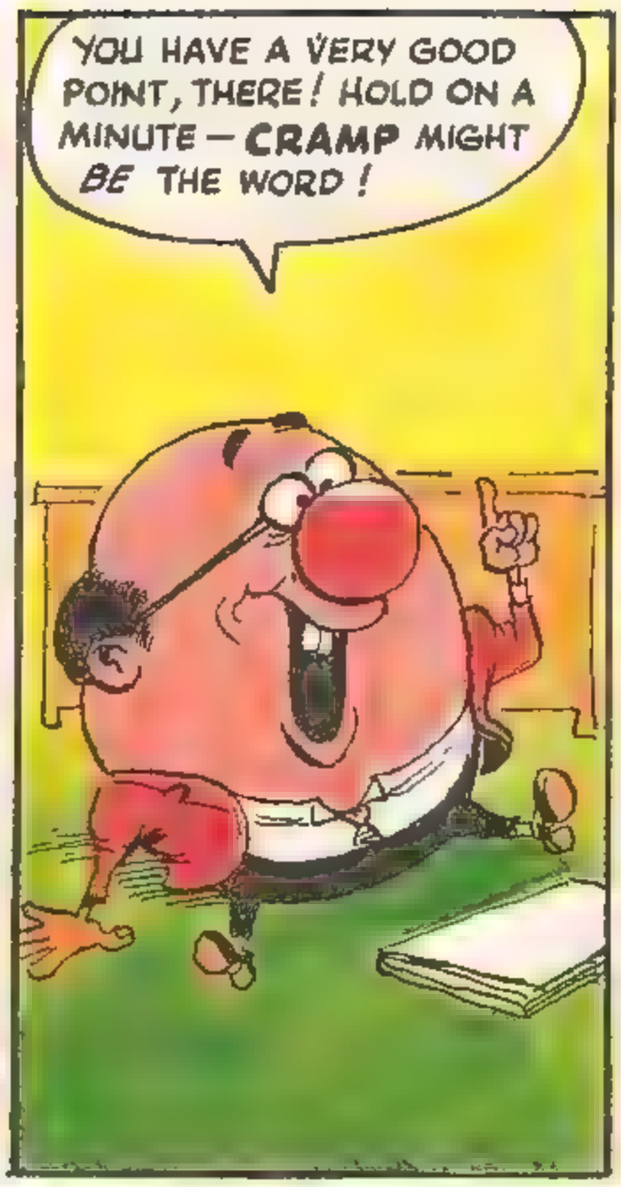
'ORRID PONG

MORE 'ORRID PONG

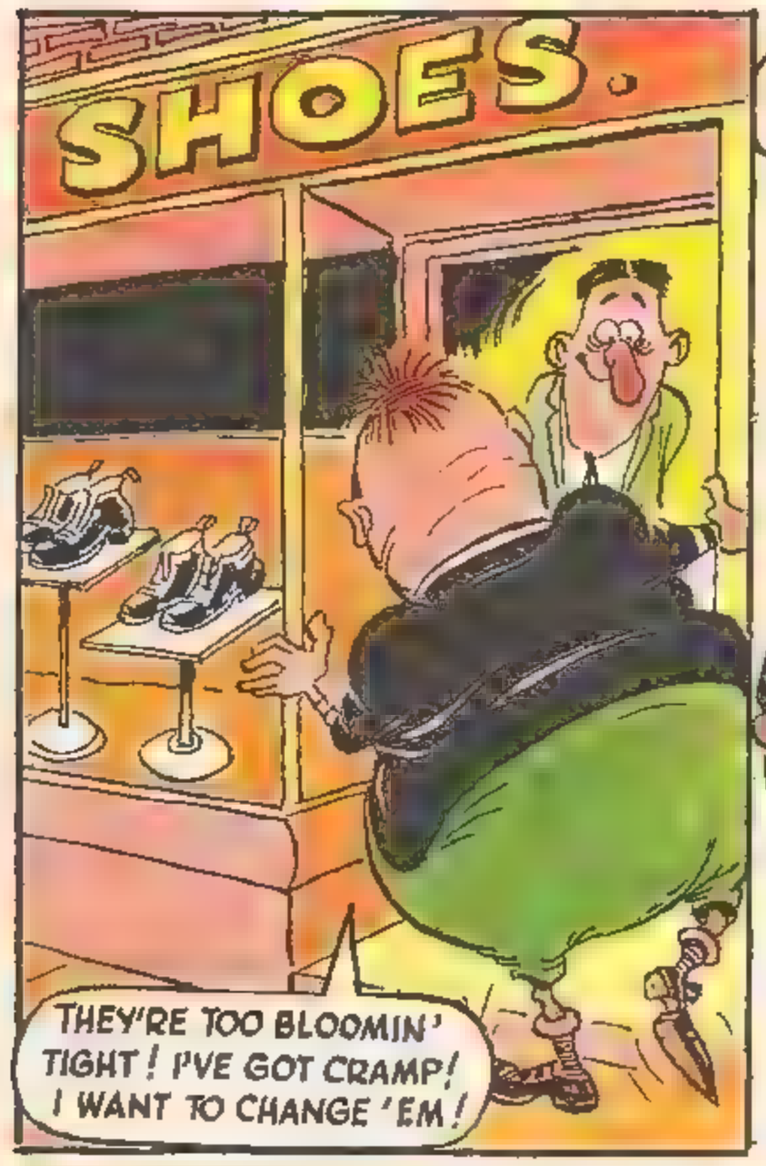
C'MON, BACK WE GO! WE'RE NOT PUTTING UP WITH THIS!

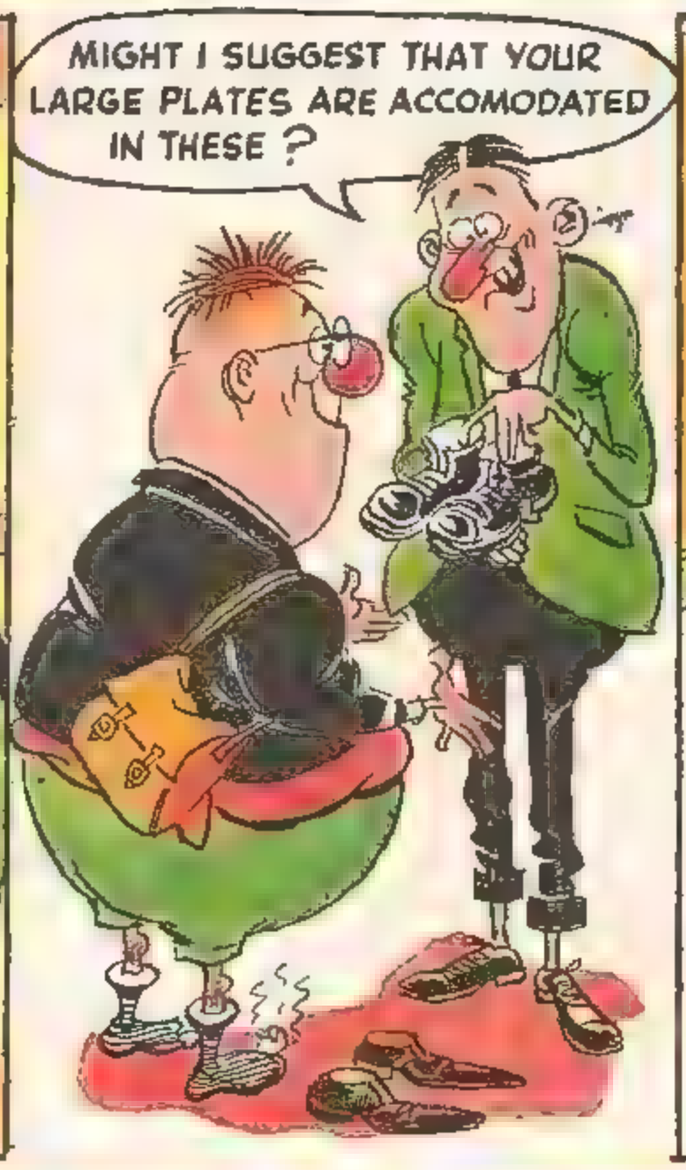
NO! NOT AGAIN! OL' FATTY'S DONE HIS BEST!

PACKED IN LIKE SARDINES, WE ARE! CRAMPED ISN'T THE WORD, I TELL YOU!
TWO LARGE FLAT FEET
SOLED
ALL MOD CORNS
HOUSING OFFICER


YOU HAVE A VERY GOOD POINT, THERE! HOLD ON A MINUTE — CRAMP MIGHT BE THE WORD!

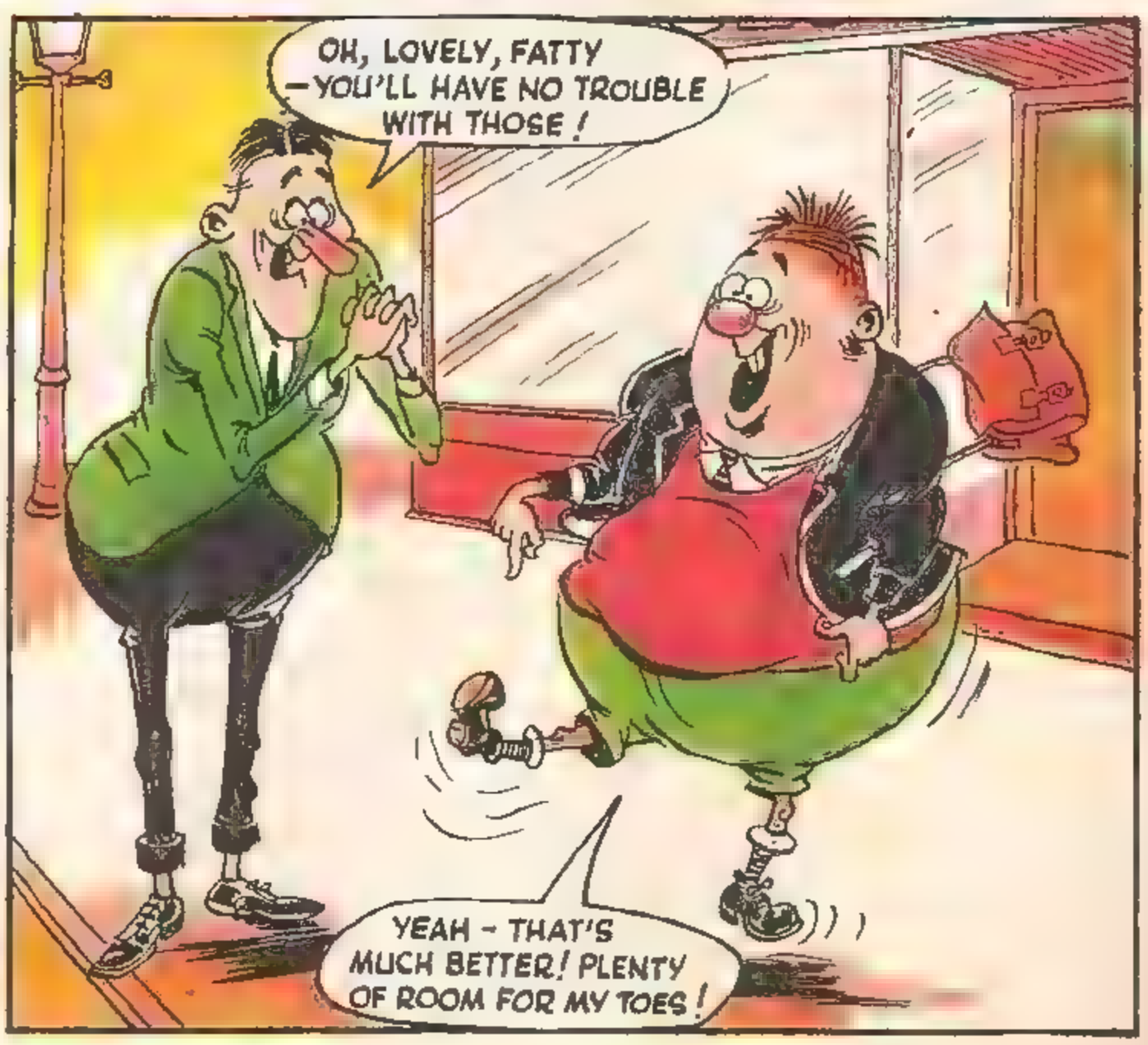
AH, CRAMP WAS THE WORD — THOSE WINKLE PICKERS WERE TOO TIGHT...
YE-E-OWWW! CRAMP!


SHOES.
THEY'RE TOO BLOOMIN' TIGHT! I'VE GOT CRAMP! I WANT TO CHANGE 'EM!

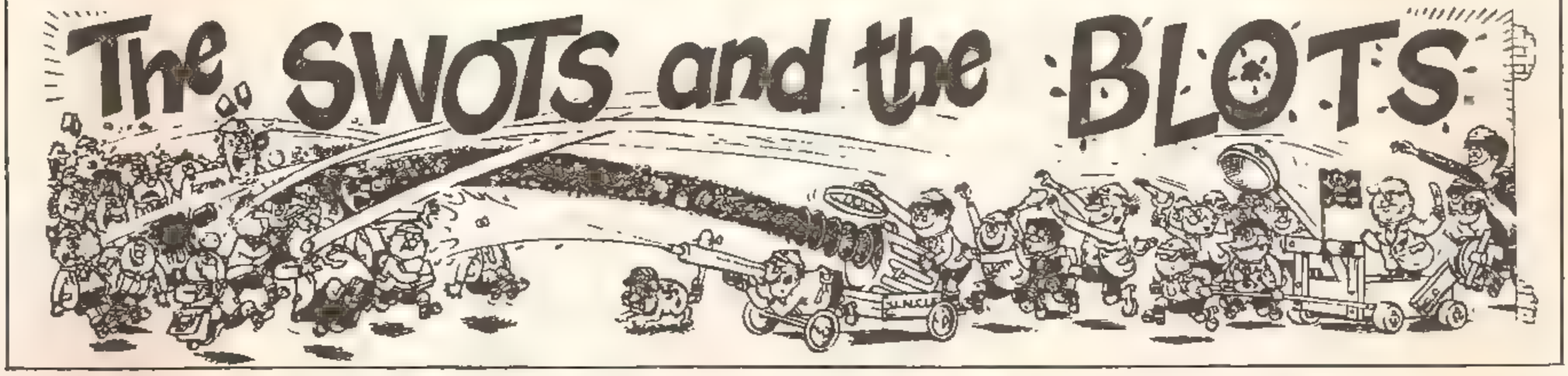

MIGHT I SUGGEST THAT YOUR LARGE PLATES ARE ACCOMODATED IN THESE?

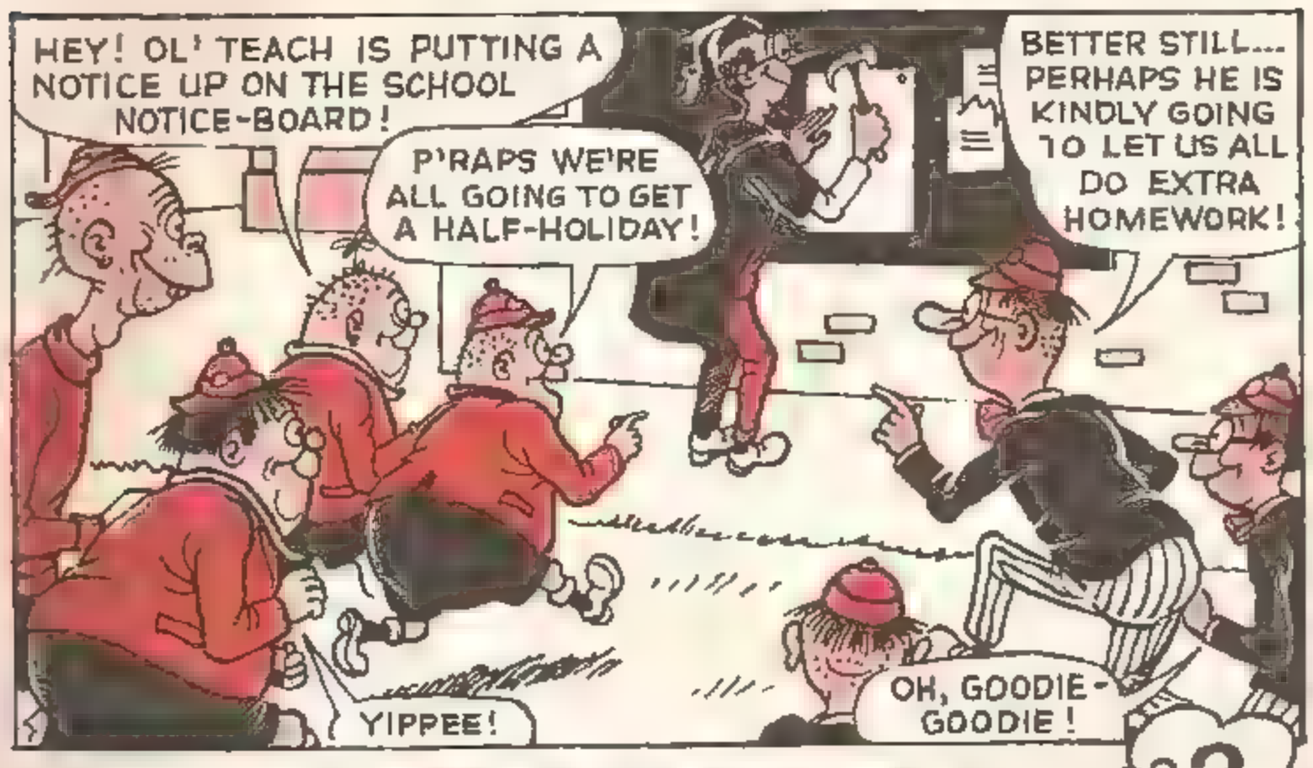
OOO, LOVELY! WHAT SPACE! SMASHIN'!
JUST THE JOB!

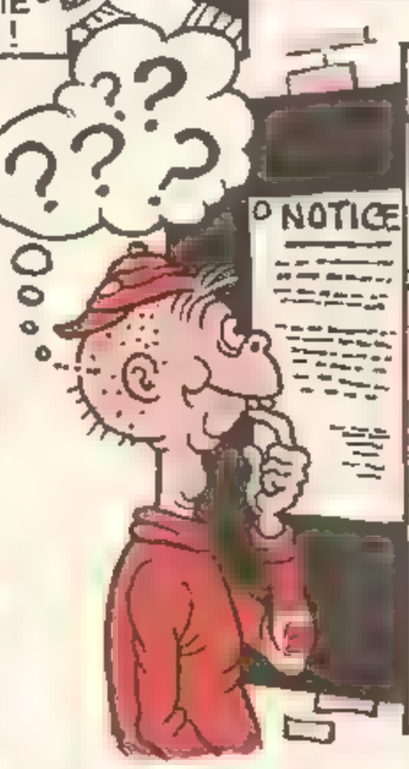
PLENTY OF ROOM TO SWING THE CAT NOW, MUM!

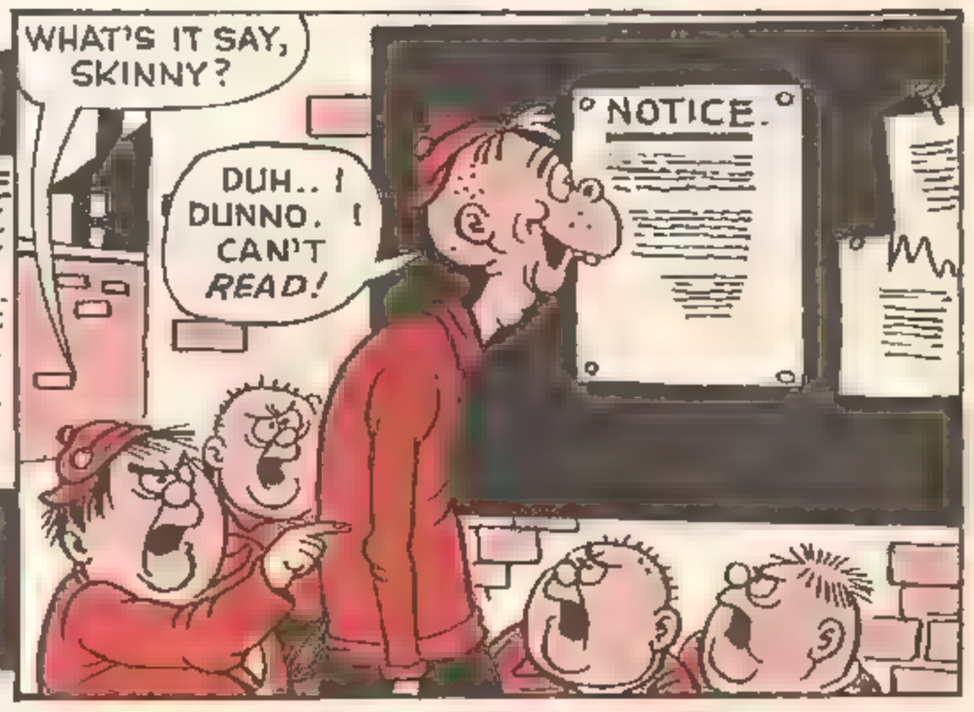

OH, LOVELY, FATTY — YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH THOSE!
YEAH - THAT'S MUCH BETTER! PLENTY OF ROOM FOR MY TOES!

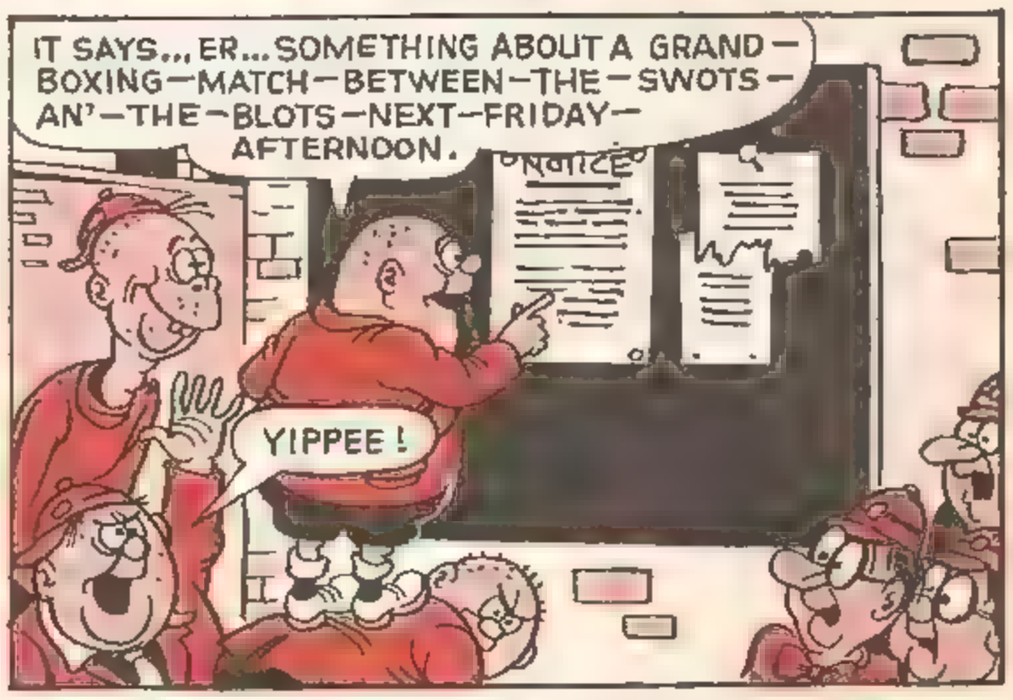
The SWOTS and the BLOTS

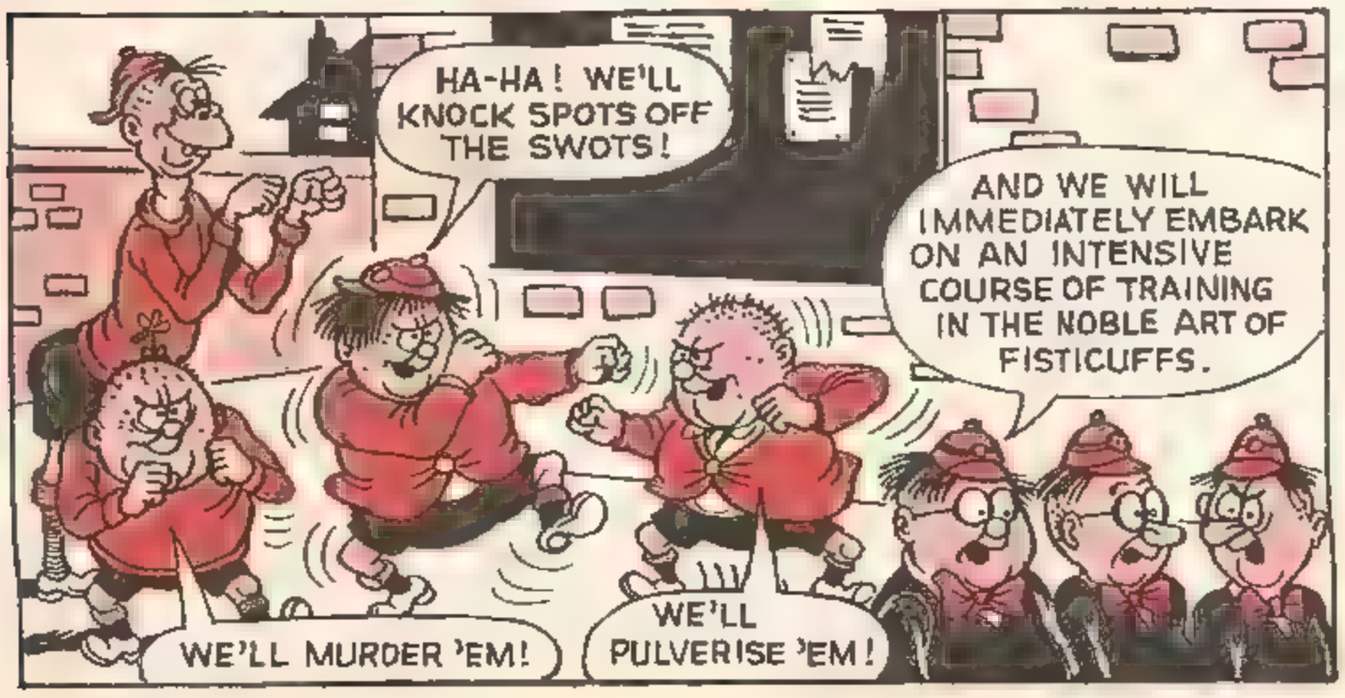


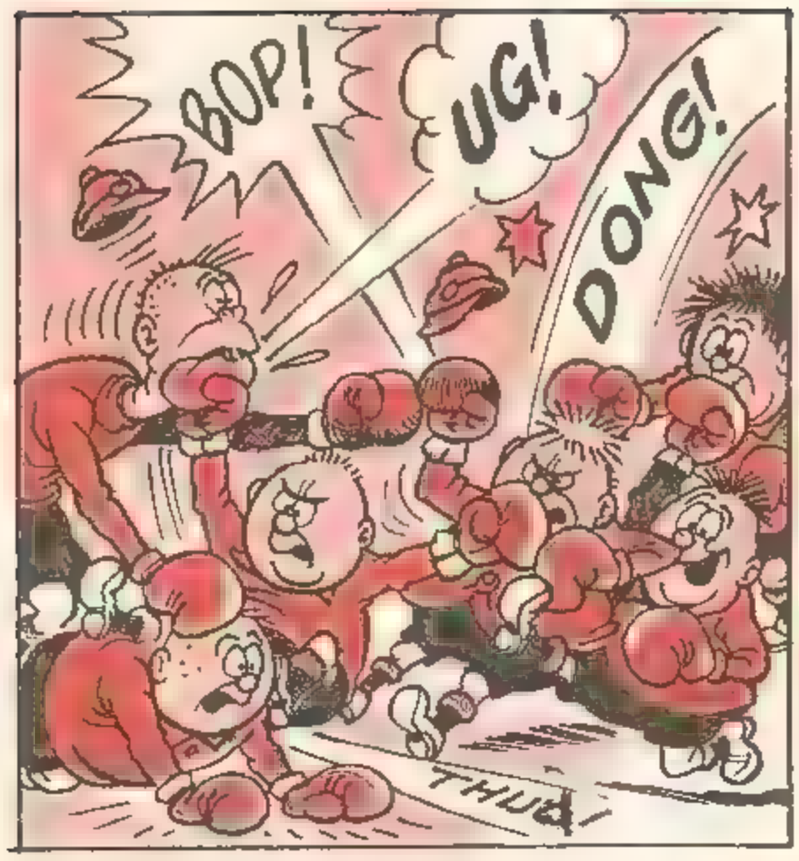


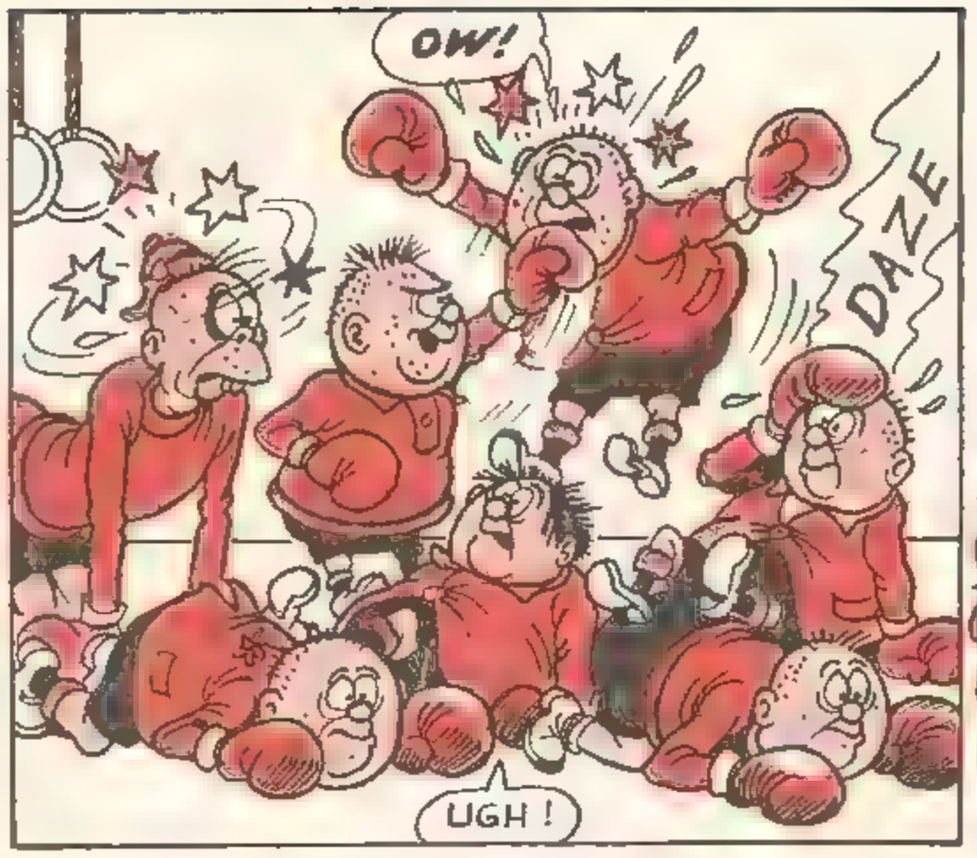




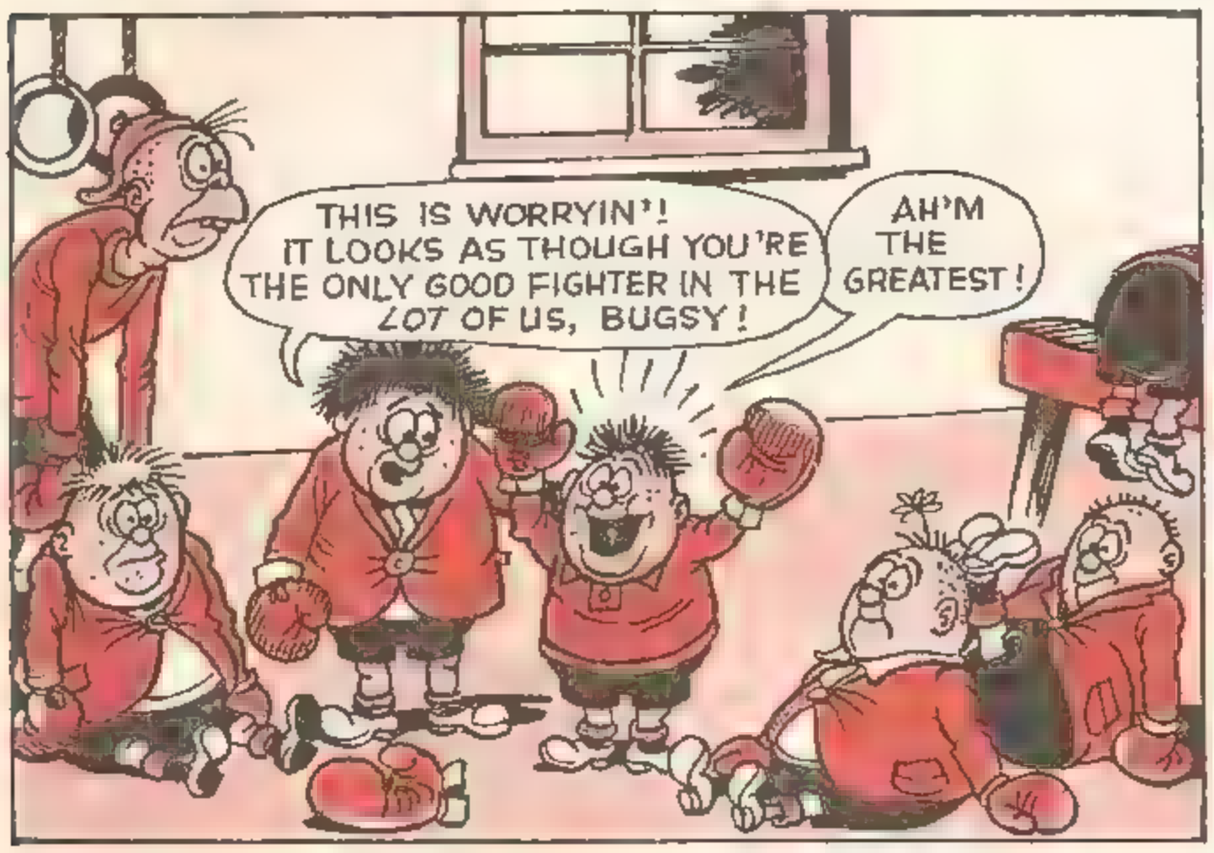


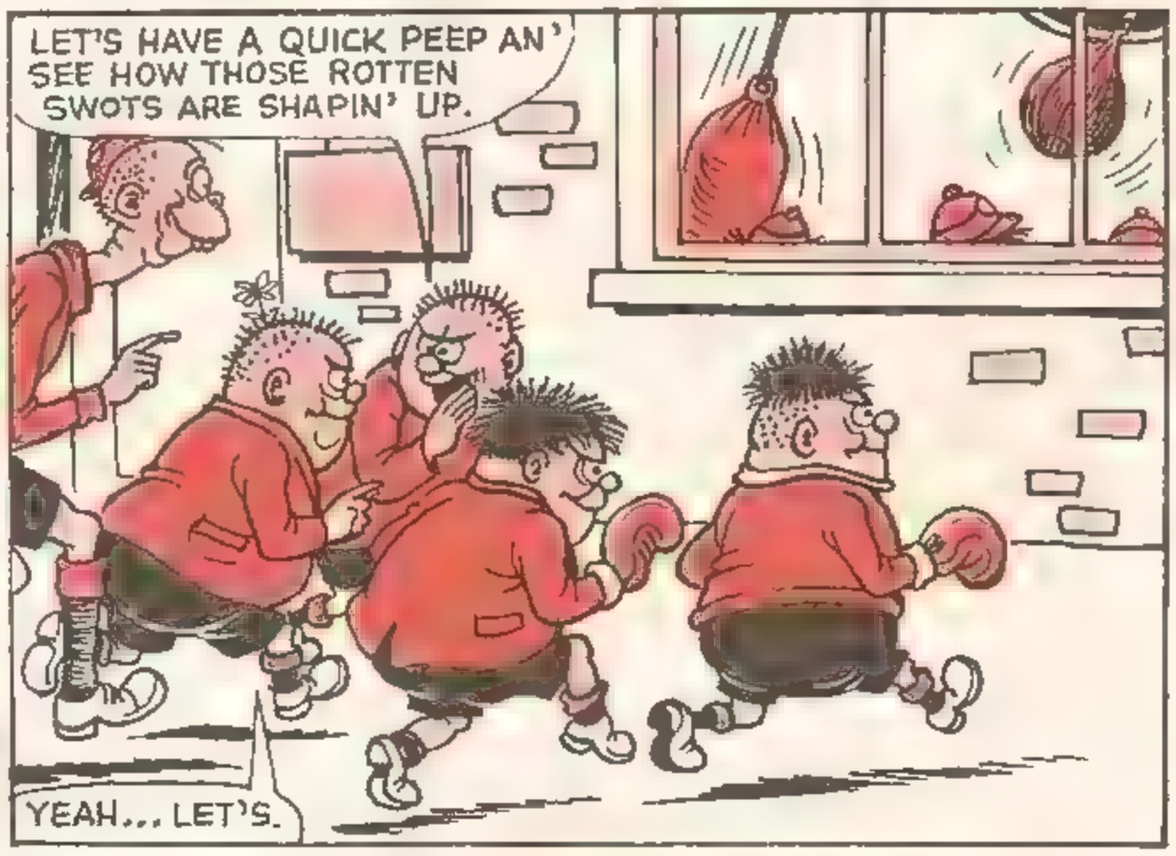


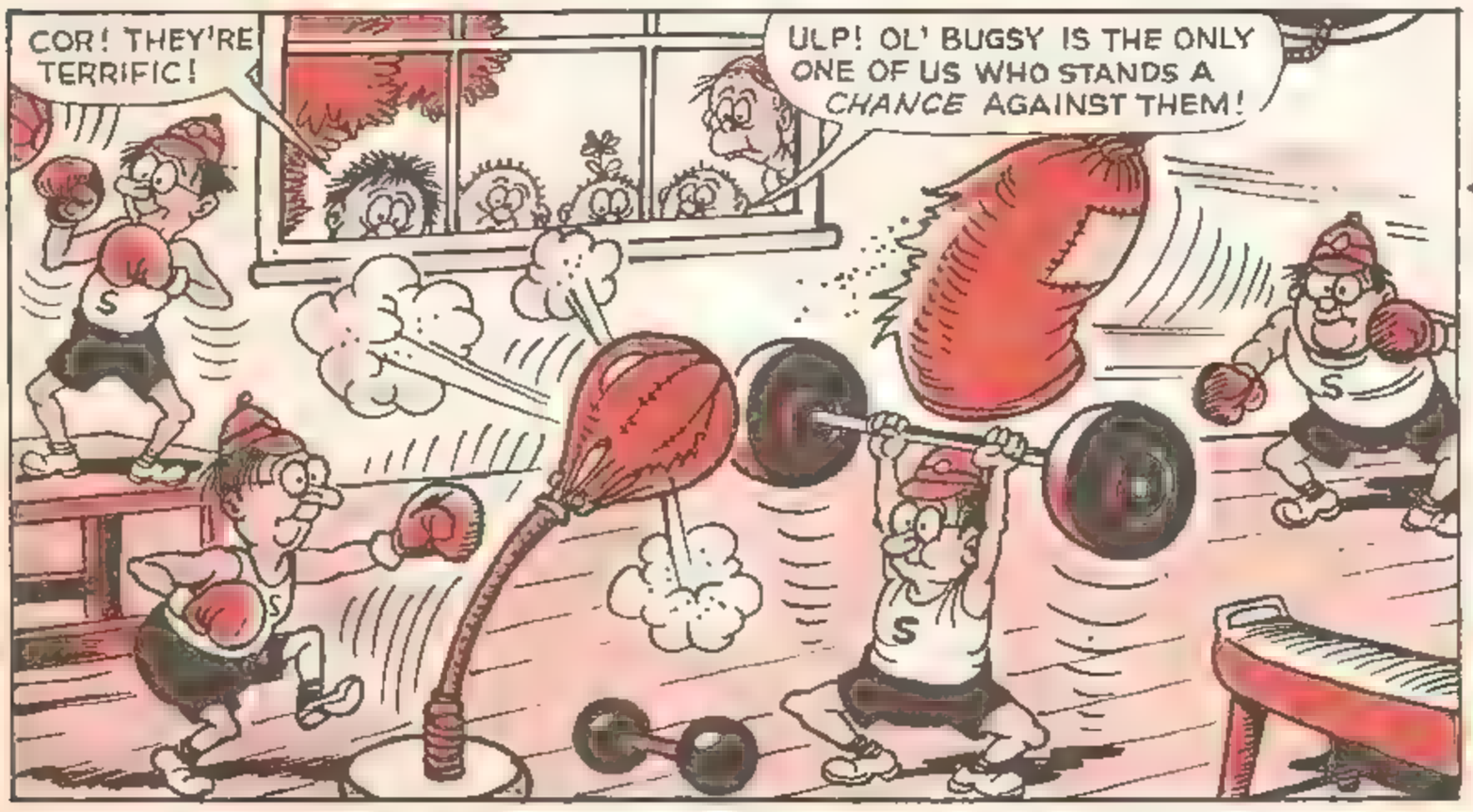

BOP!
UG!
DONG!
THUD!


OW!
DAZE
UGH!

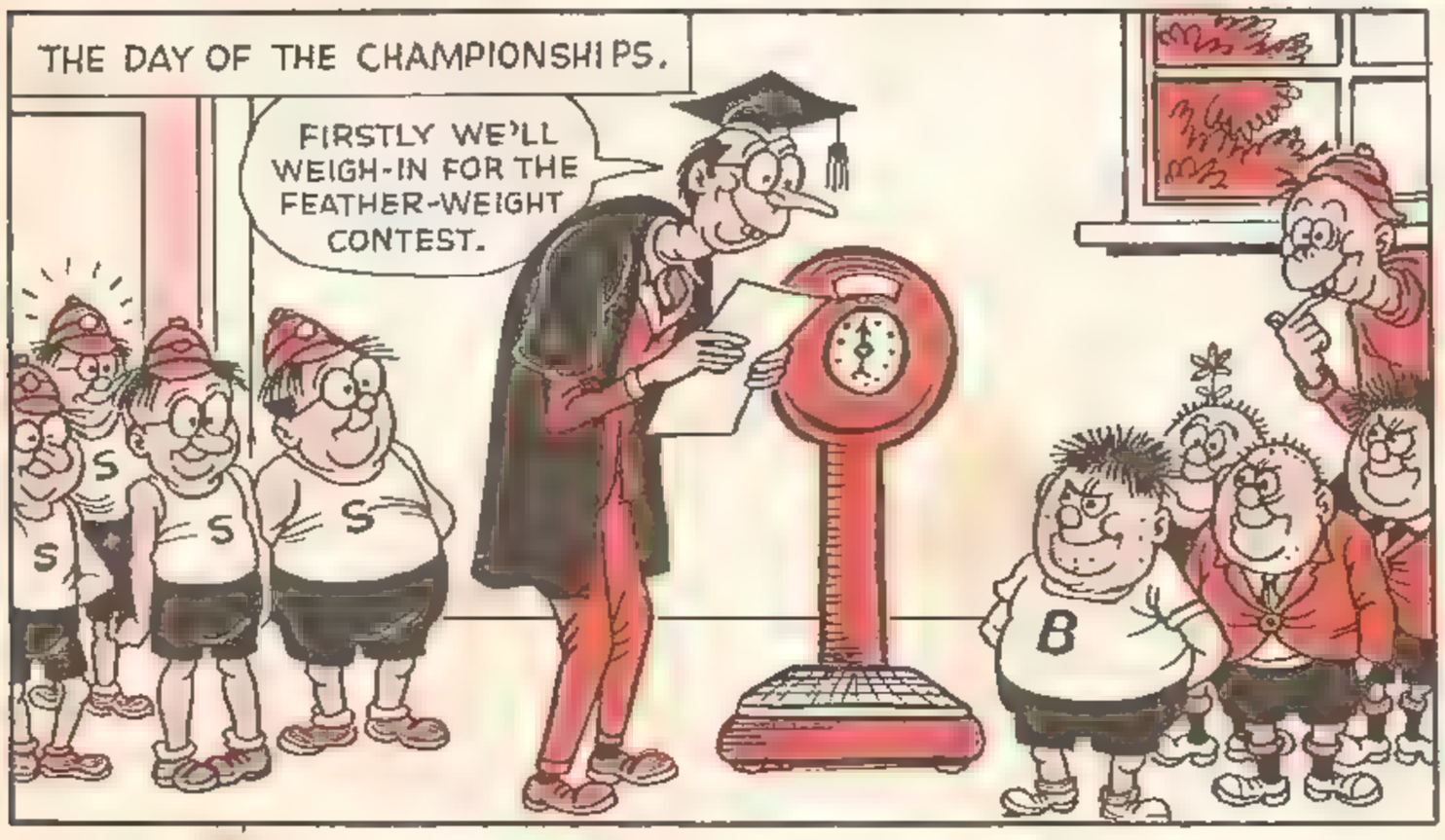
COR! WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE OTHERS?


THIS IS WORRYIN'! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'RE THE ONLY GOOD FIGHTER IN THE LOT OF US, BUGSY!
AH'M THE GREATEST!


LET'S HAVE A QUICK PEEP AN' SEE HOW THOSE ROTTEN SWOTS ARE SHAPIN' UP.
YEAH... LET'S.


COR! THEY'RE TERRIFIC!
ULP! OL' BUGSY IS THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO STANDS A CHANCE AGAINST THEM!

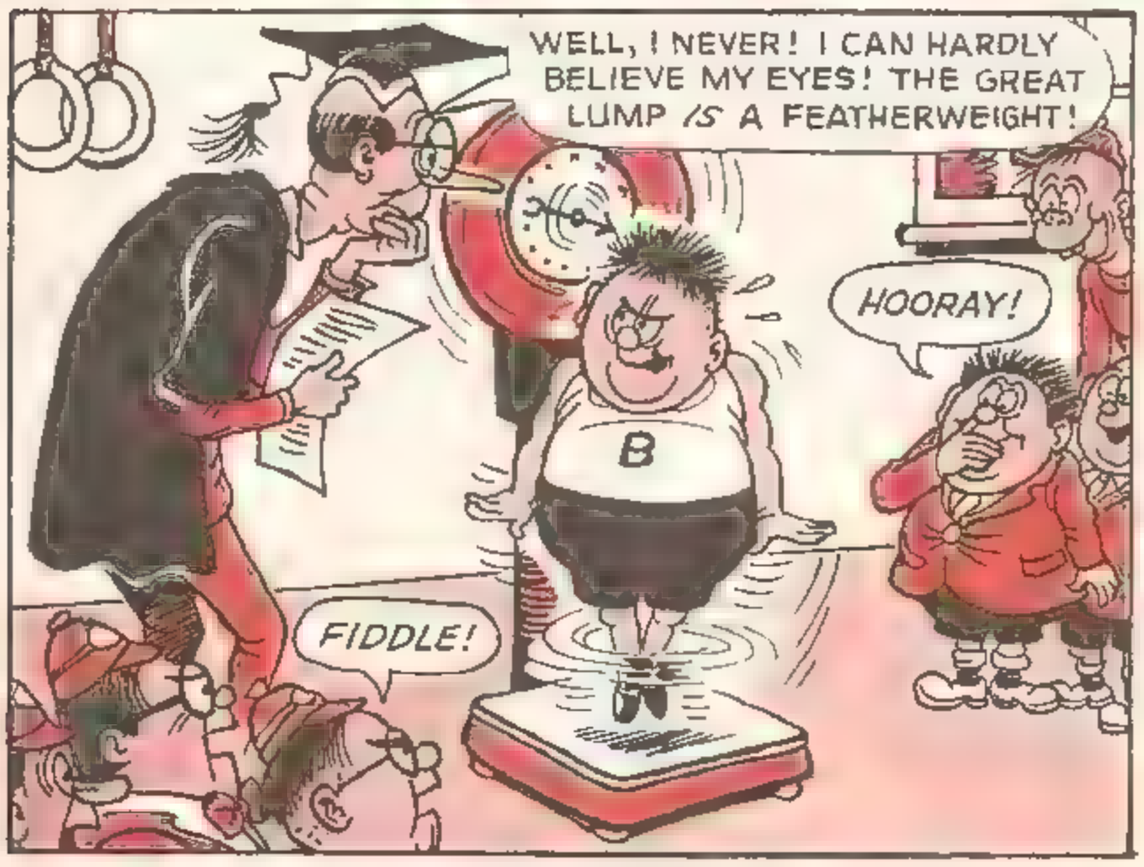
THAT'S AN IDEA! BUGSY CAN REPRESENT US AGAINST THE LOT OF 'EM!

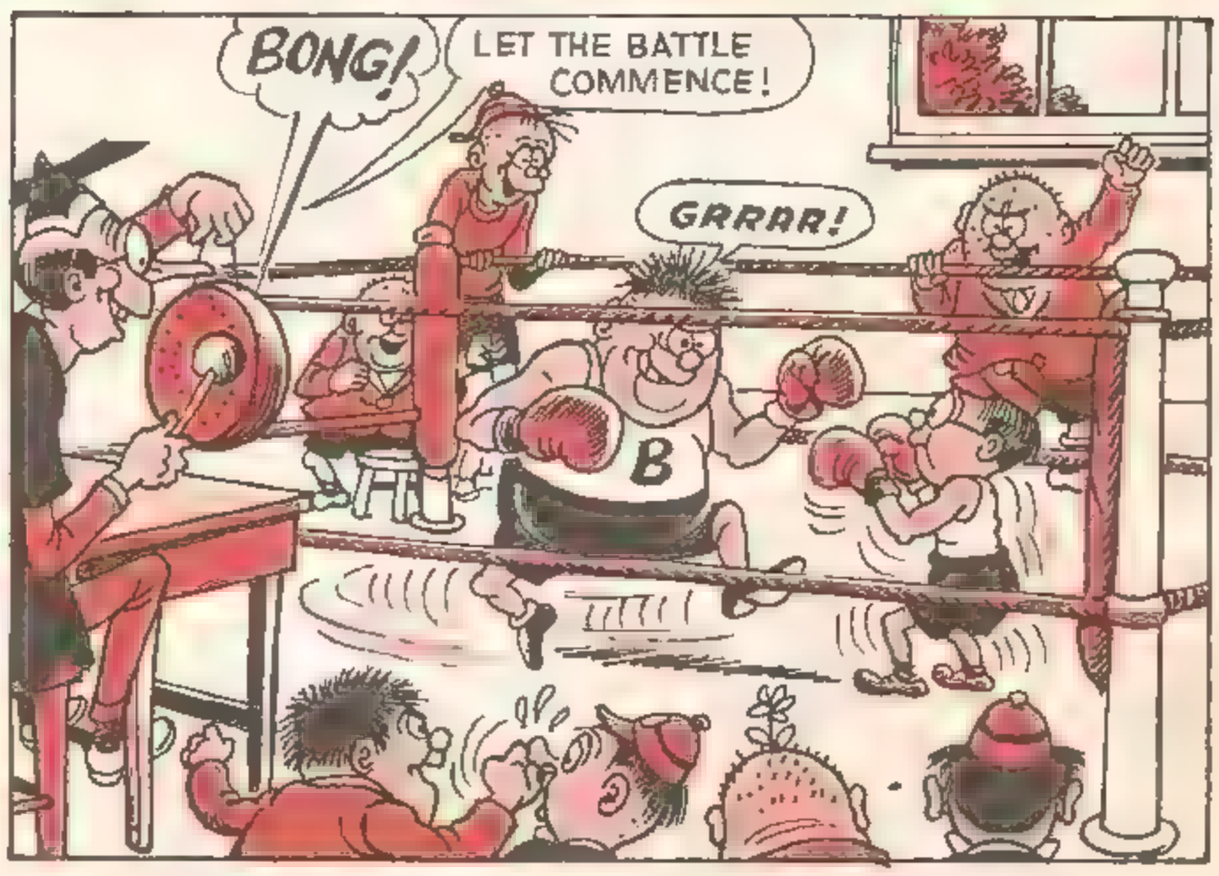

THE DAY OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.
FIRSTLY WE'LL WEIGH-IN FOR THE FEATHER-WEIGHT CONTEST.

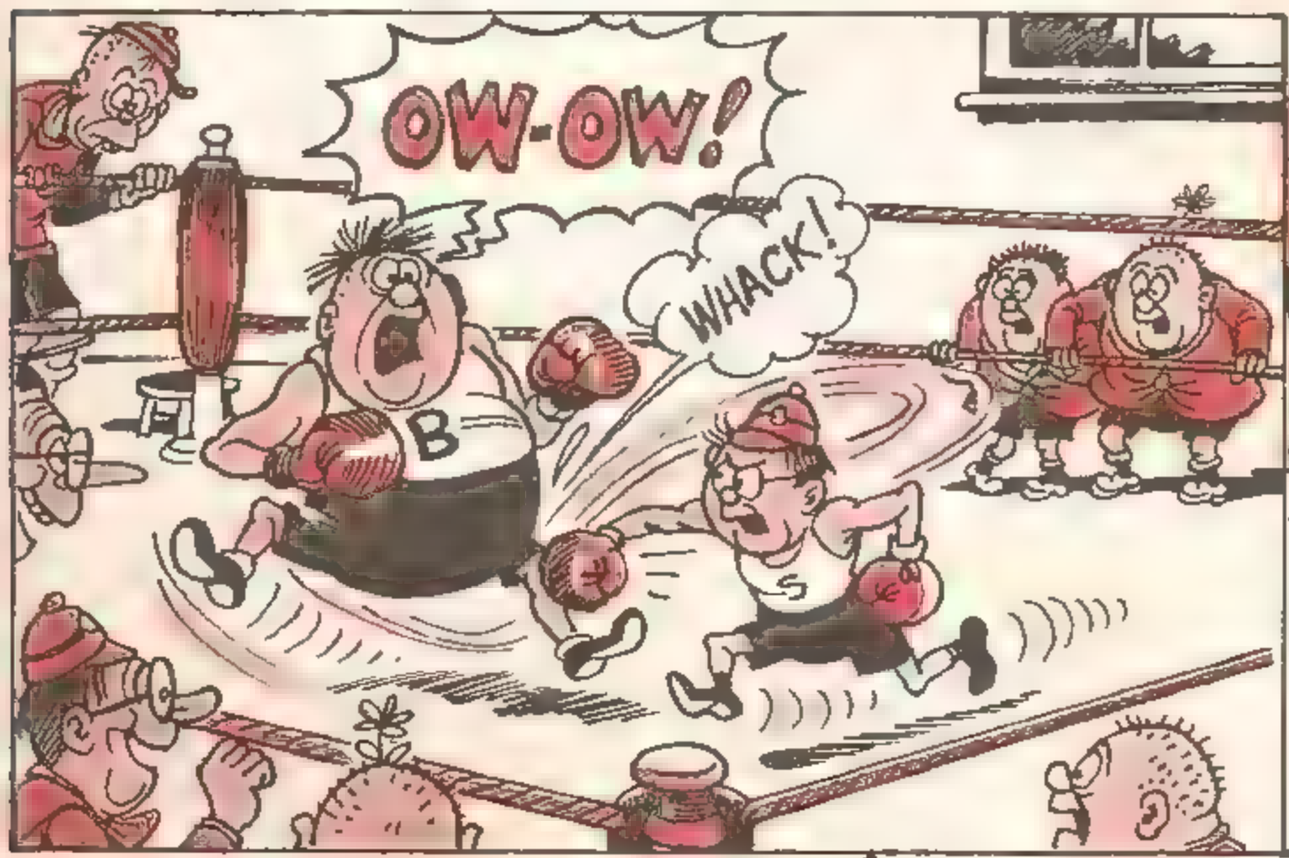
YES.... YOU QUALIFY.
TRY TO WEIGH AS LITTLE AS YOU CAN, BUGSY.

AND NOW WILL THE BLOTS' REPRESENTATIVE PLEASE STEP FORWARD.

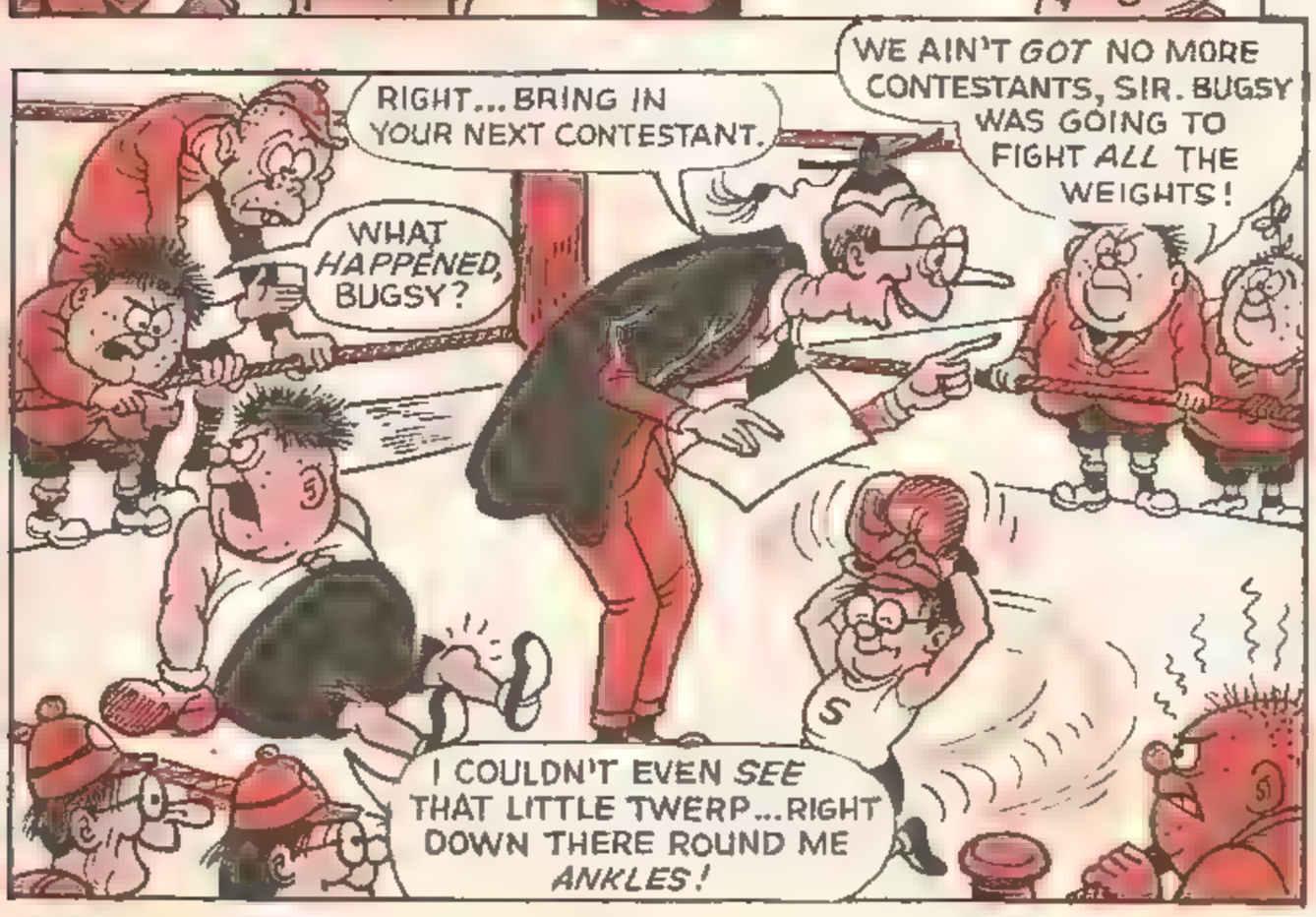
HMMMM:...YOU LOOK A TRIFLE OVERWEIGHT, MY LAD.
OH, I'M VERY LIGHT REALLY.... MY MUM SAYS I MUST HAVE HOLLOW LEGS!

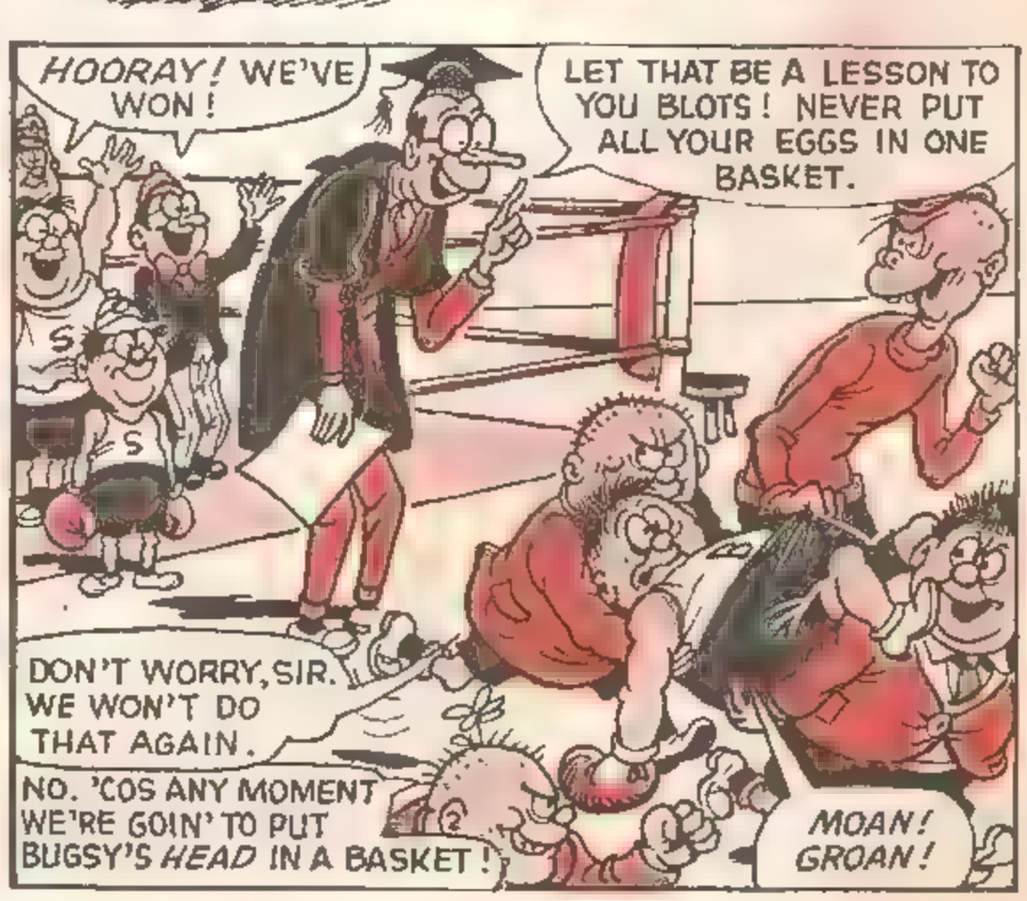

WELL, I NEVER! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES! THE GREAT LUMP *IS* A FEATHERWEIGHT!
HOORAY!
FIDDLE!


BONG!
LET THE BATTLE COMMENCE!
GRRRR!

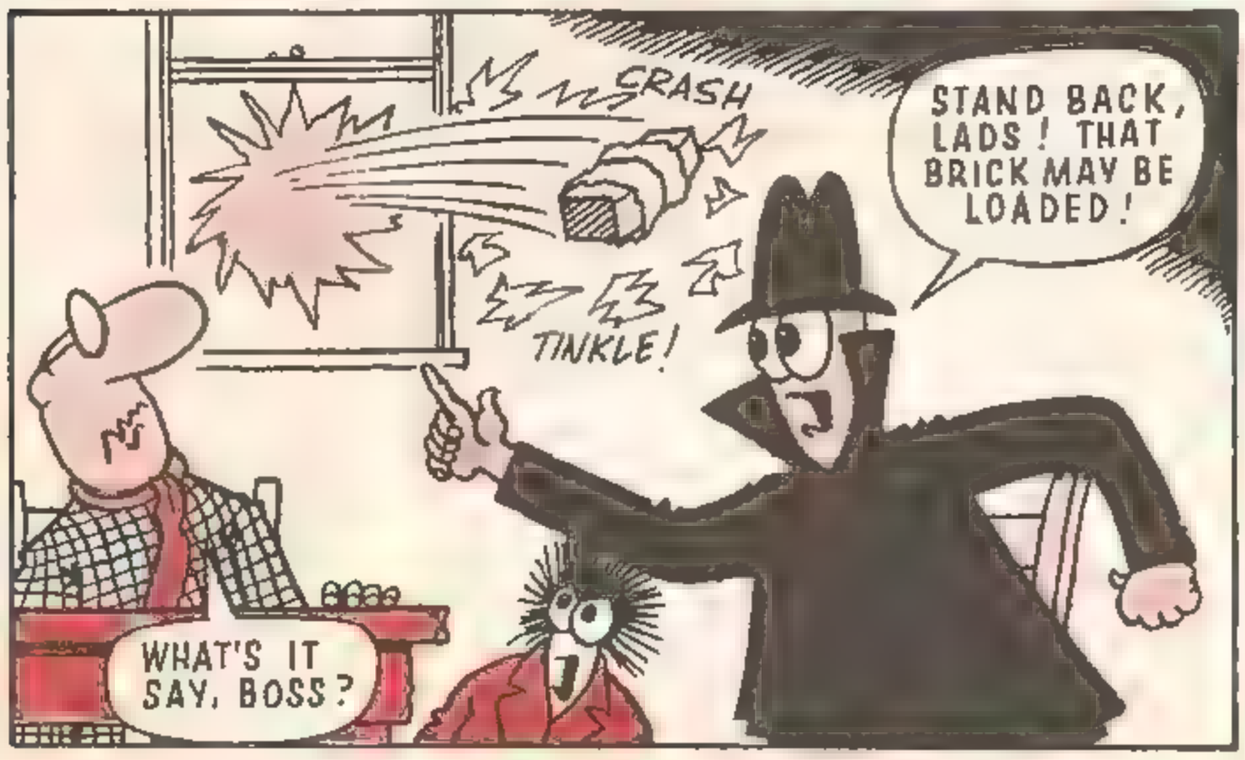

OW-OW!
WHACK!

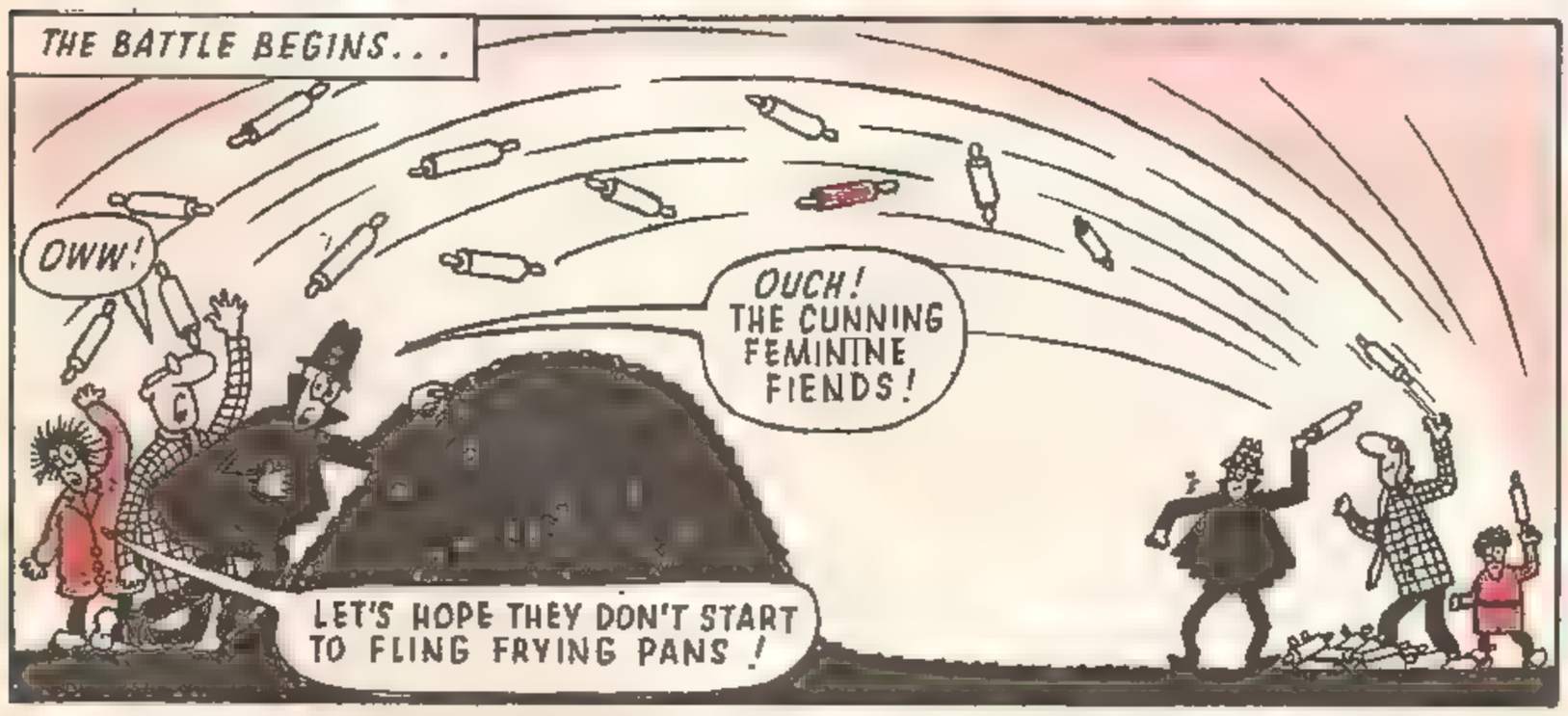
OH-OH-OH!
...NINE-TEN-*OUT!*

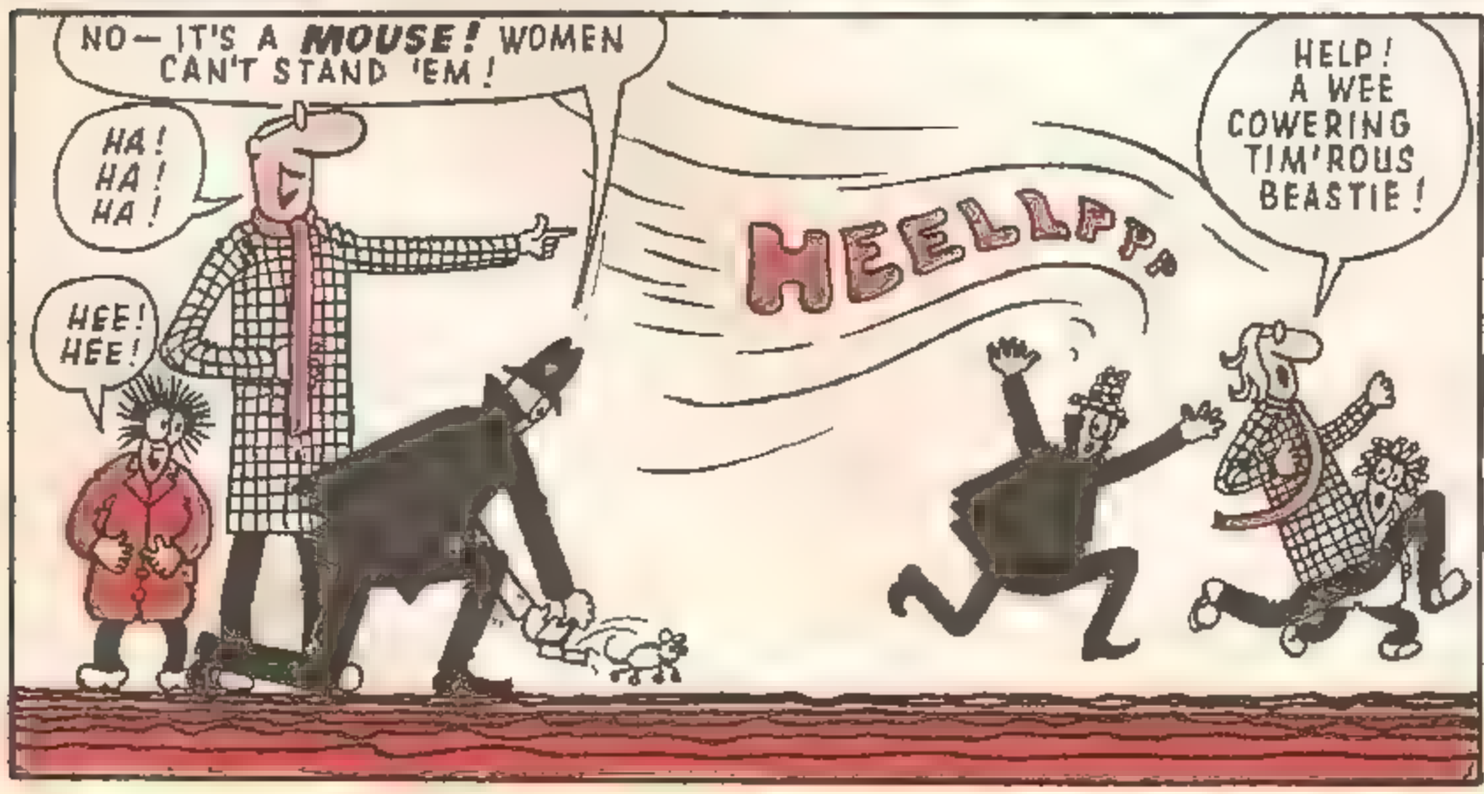

RIGHT...BRING IN YOUR NEXT CONTESTANT.
WE AIN'T *GOT* NO MORE CONTESTANTS, SIR. BUGSY WAS GOING TO FIGHT *ALL* THE WEIGHTS!
WHAT *HAPPENED*, BUGSY?
I COULDN'T EVEN *SEE* THAT LITTLE TWERP...RIGHT DOWN THERE ROUND ME *ANKLES!*


HOORAY! WE'VE WON!
LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU BLOTS! NEVER PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET.
DON'T WORRY, SIR. WE WON'T DO THAT AGAIN.
NO. 'COS ANY MOMENT WE'RE GOIN' TO PUT BUGSY'S *HEAD* IN A BASKET!
MOAN! GROAN!

THE CLOAK v CLOAKWOMAN







OWW! OUCH! HELP! YEOW! OOF! GULP! OWW!
TAKE THAT AND THAT AND THAT AND THAT!
AND THIS! HA! HA!

BACK AT CLOAK H.Q.
WE'RE FINISHED! FOILED BY A BUNCH OF WOMEN!
OO, ME NUT! IS THIS THE END OF THE GREAT CLOAK!
NO, LADS! I'VE STILL GOT ONE PLAN THAT WILL OVERPOWER THE OPPOSITION!

HAVE WE GOT EVERYTHING ... DIRTY LAUNDRY? SACKS OF DUST? SOOT? WASHING UP?
PUFF! PANT! I THINK SO!
I STILL DON'T GET IT, BOSS...

SSHH! WE DON'T WANT TO WAKE THEM UP!
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

BOMBS AWAY!
CLATTER!
CRASH!

OH, NO! LOOK AT THE MESS! MY LOVELY CARPET!
SOB! WE SPENT ALL DAY CLEANING UP THE ROOM, TOO!
GULP!

GET BUSY, GALS! YOU'VE A LOT OF HOUSEWORK TO DO! HA! HA!
SEETHE! SEETHE!
GRRRRRR!

THAT'S PUT PAID TO THEIR LITTLE LOT! WOMEN CAN'T STAND MESSES! RECKON THEY'LL BE CLEANING THAT LOT UP TILL HAFT PAST TWO NEXT MICHAELMAS TUESDAY! HO! HO!

"ESCAPE into SPACE"

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group

DUE TO ADVANCED POLICE TECHNIQUES, NO CRIMINAL IN THE FUTURE WILL STAND A CHANCE! ALL WILL BE APPREHENDED AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE... LIKE THIS...

CONRAD ZENO, THIS COURT FINDS YOU GUILTY AND SENTENCES YOU TO TEN YEARS AT OUR MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN OUTER SPACE!

I COULD MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, BUT IT WOULD BE USELESS! THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH WHERE THE LAW COULDN'T TRACE ME WITHIN A MATTER OF HOURS!

AND SO...

RELAX, ZENO! YOU WON'T FIND PRISON SO BAD!

SURE! I'LL HAVE A BALL, ROTTING AWAY IN SOME INTERPLANETARY DUNGEON FOR TEN YEARS!

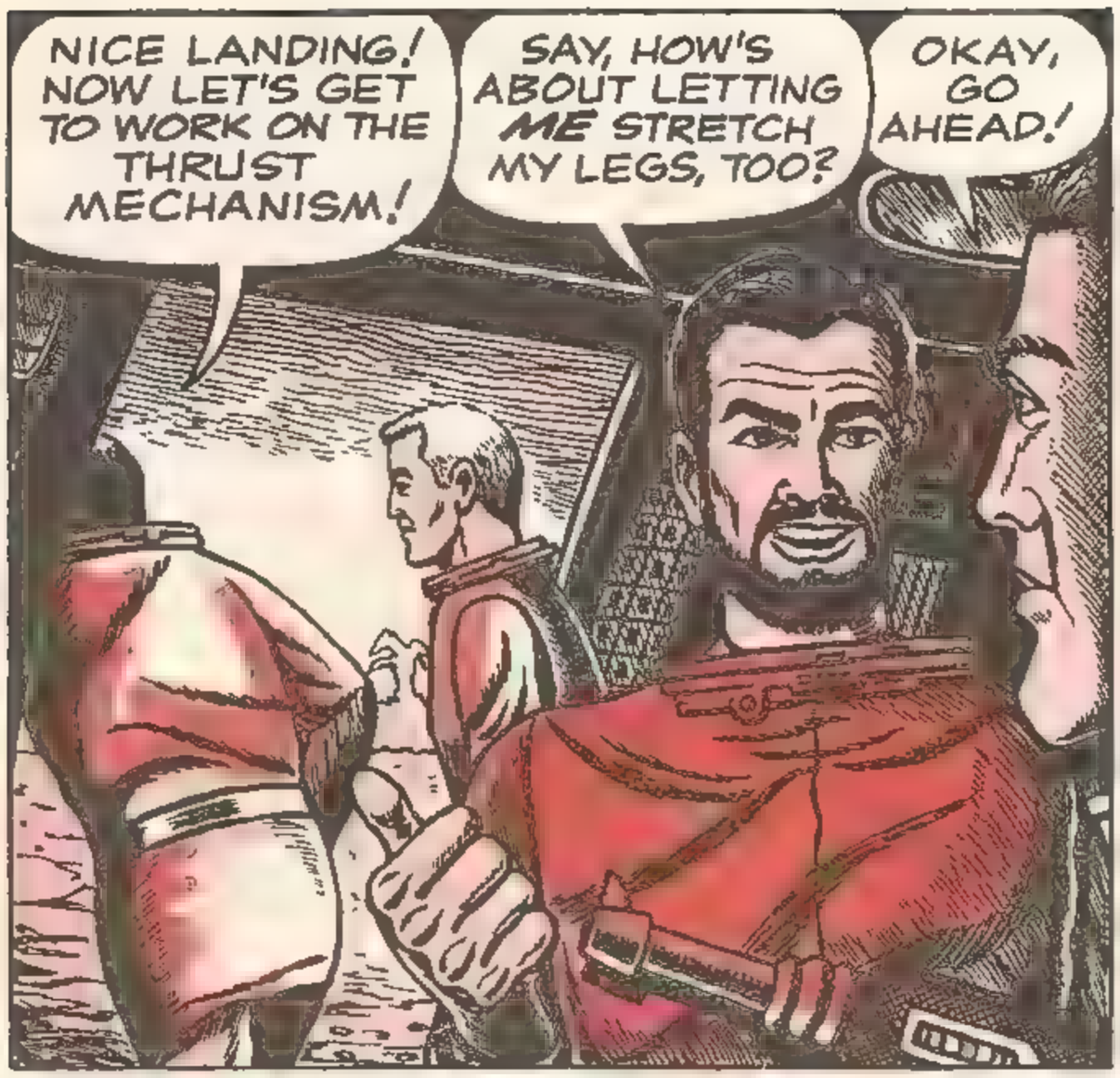
BUT, BEFORE THE SHIP CAN REACH ITS DESTINATION...

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE GAMMA THRUST MECHANISM! WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AND REPAIR IT!

THIS MIGHT BE MY CHANCE TO ***ESCAPE!*** ON EARTH, I'D BE FOUND NO MATTER WHERE I HID! BUT ON SOME STRANGE, ALIEN WORLD, I MIGHT GET AWAY WITH IT!

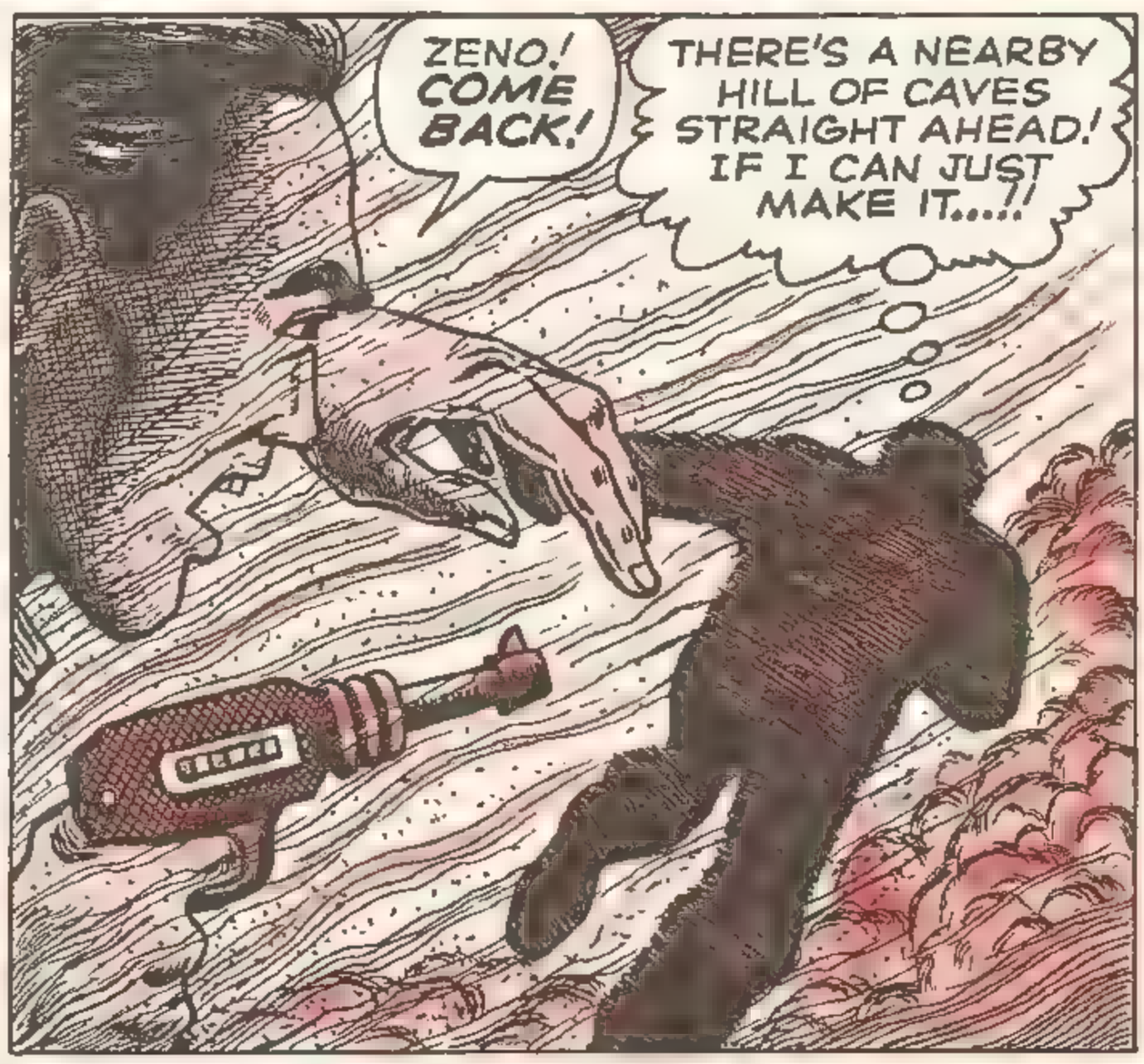
OUR INSTRUMENTS READ THAT PLANET UP AHEAD AS AN OXYGEN WORLD, WITH GRAVITY SIMILAR TO EARTH'S!

GOOD ENOUGH! WE'LL MAKE OUR LANDING THERE!


NICE LANDING! NOW LET'S GET TO WORK ON THE THRUST MECHANISM!
SAY, HOW'S ABOUT LETTING ME STRETCH MY LEGS, TOO?
OKAY, GO AHEAD!

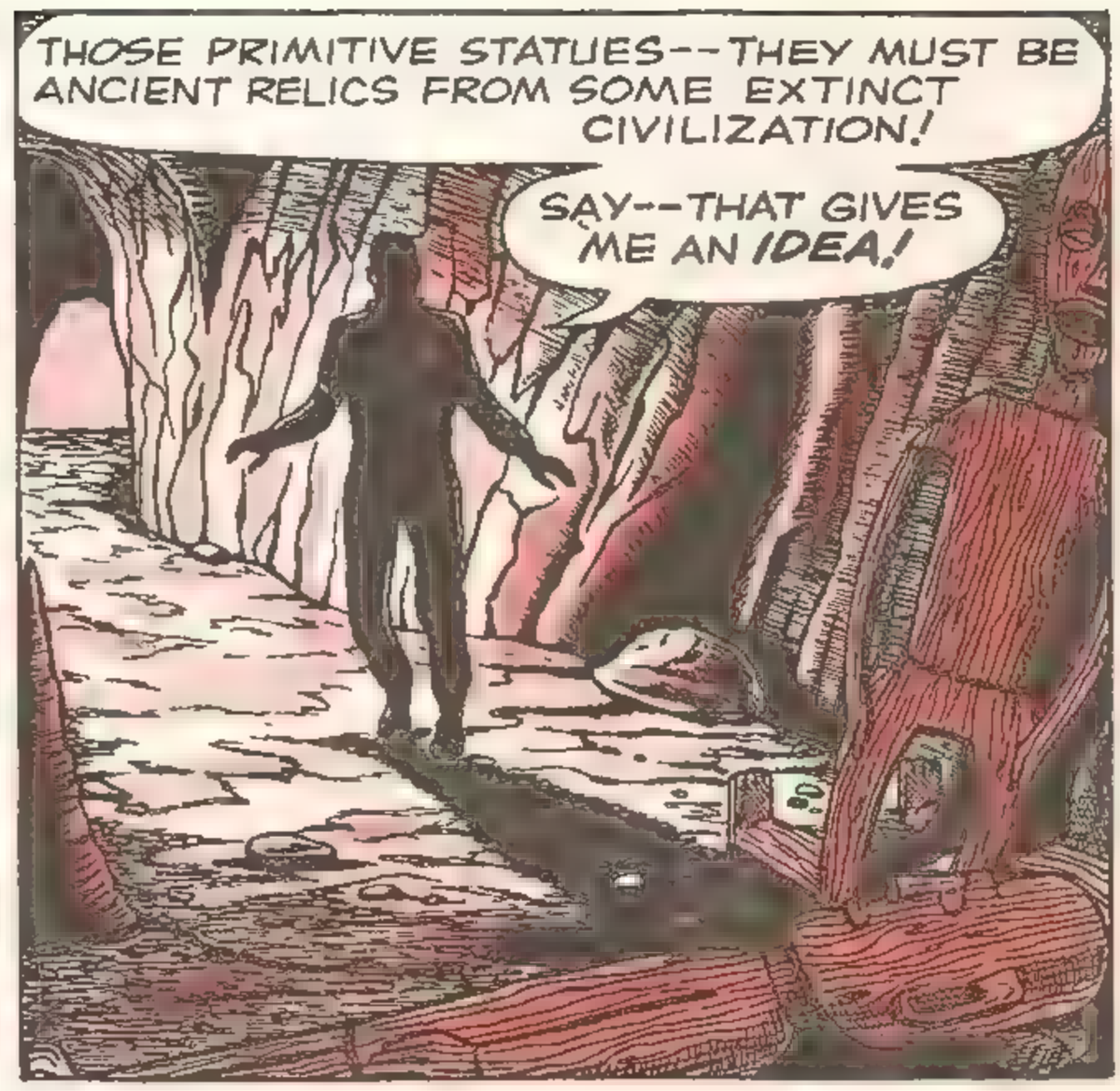
SO, WHILE THE CREW REPAIRS THE SHIP, CONRAD ZENO SCANS THE TERRAIN...
PLENTY OF VEGETATION! I COULD LIVE HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
I THINK I'VE GOT IT ADJUSTED! REV UP THE ENGINES!

HEY, KNOCK IT OFF! THE EXHAUST DRAFT IS CHURNING UP THE SAND!
MY EYES! COUGH, COUGH I CAN'T SEE!
WHIRRRRRR!
WHAT LUCK! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

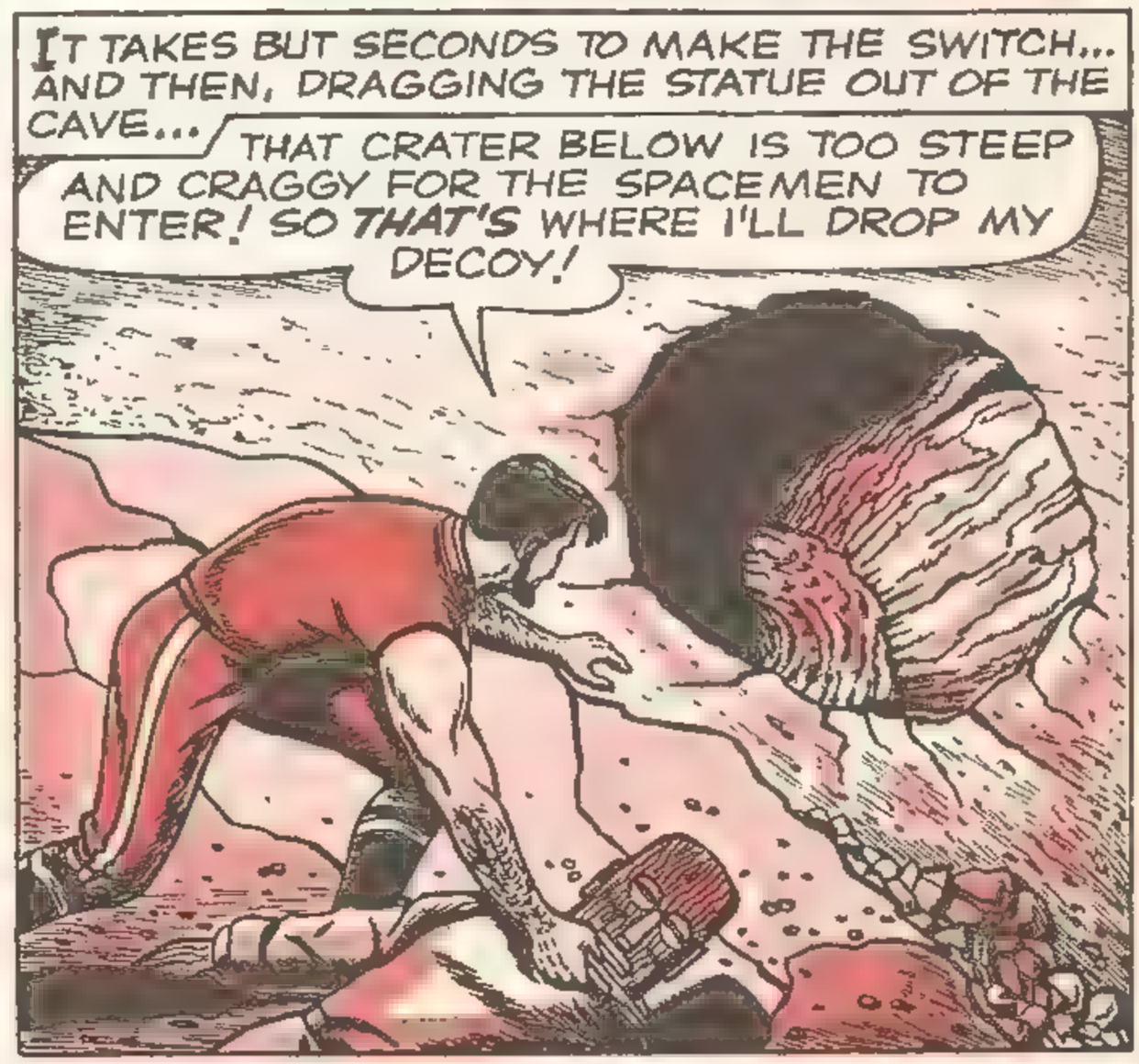

ZENO! COME BACK!
THERE'S A NEARBY HILL OF CAVES STRAIGHT AHEAD! IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT....!

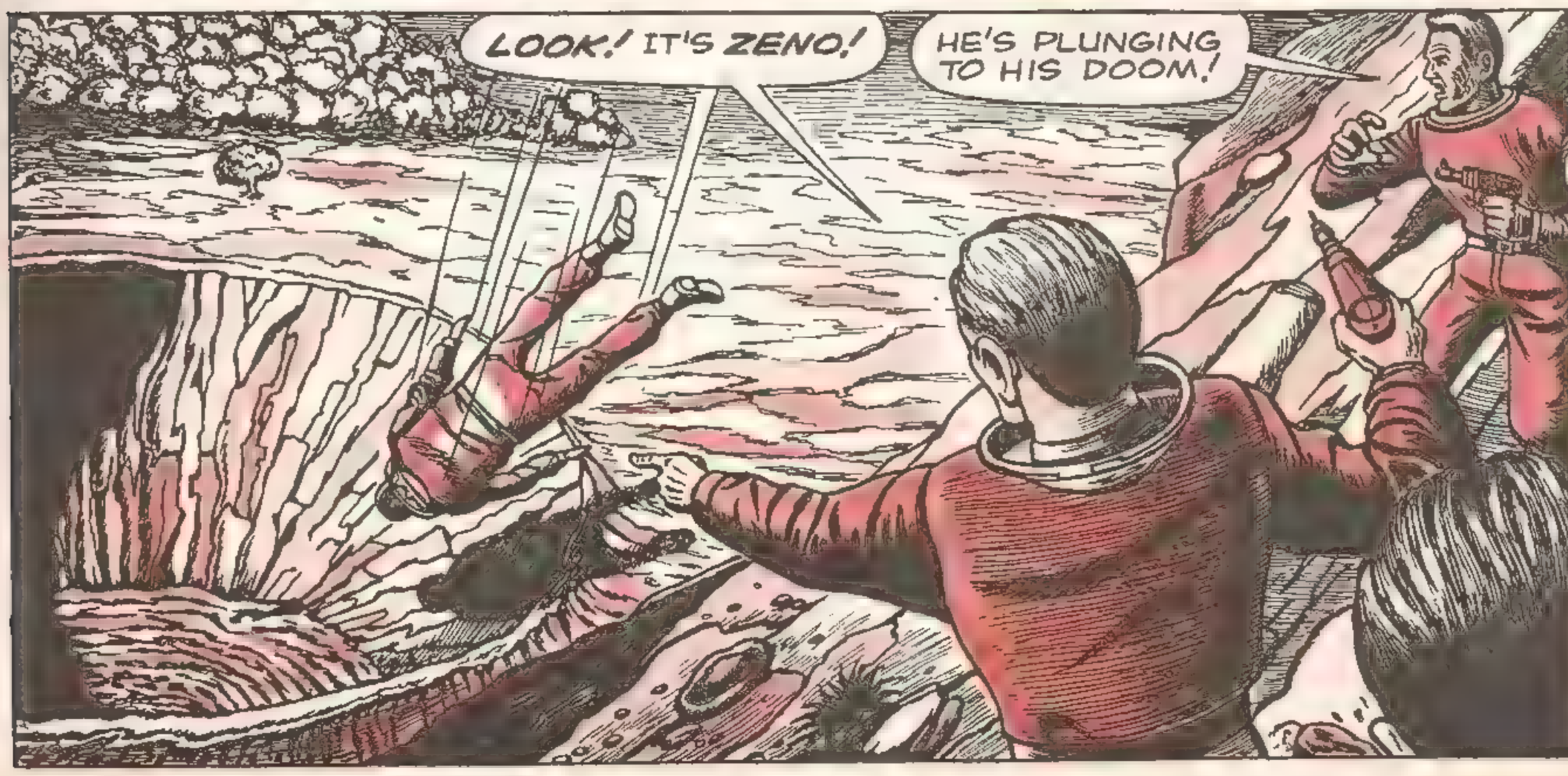
HE'S CLIMBING UP TO THE CAVES!
KEEP FIRING!
WHAT LUCK!!
THE DIFFERENCE IN GRAVITY ON THIS PLANET MUST BE AFFECTING THEIR AIM!! THEY CAN'T SEEM TO HIT ME!

THEY'RE CLIMBING UP AFTER ME! BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOSE THEM IN THE CAVES!


THOSE PRIMITIVE STATUES--THEY MUST BE ANCIENT RELICS FROM SOME EXTINCT CIVILIZATION!
SAY--THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

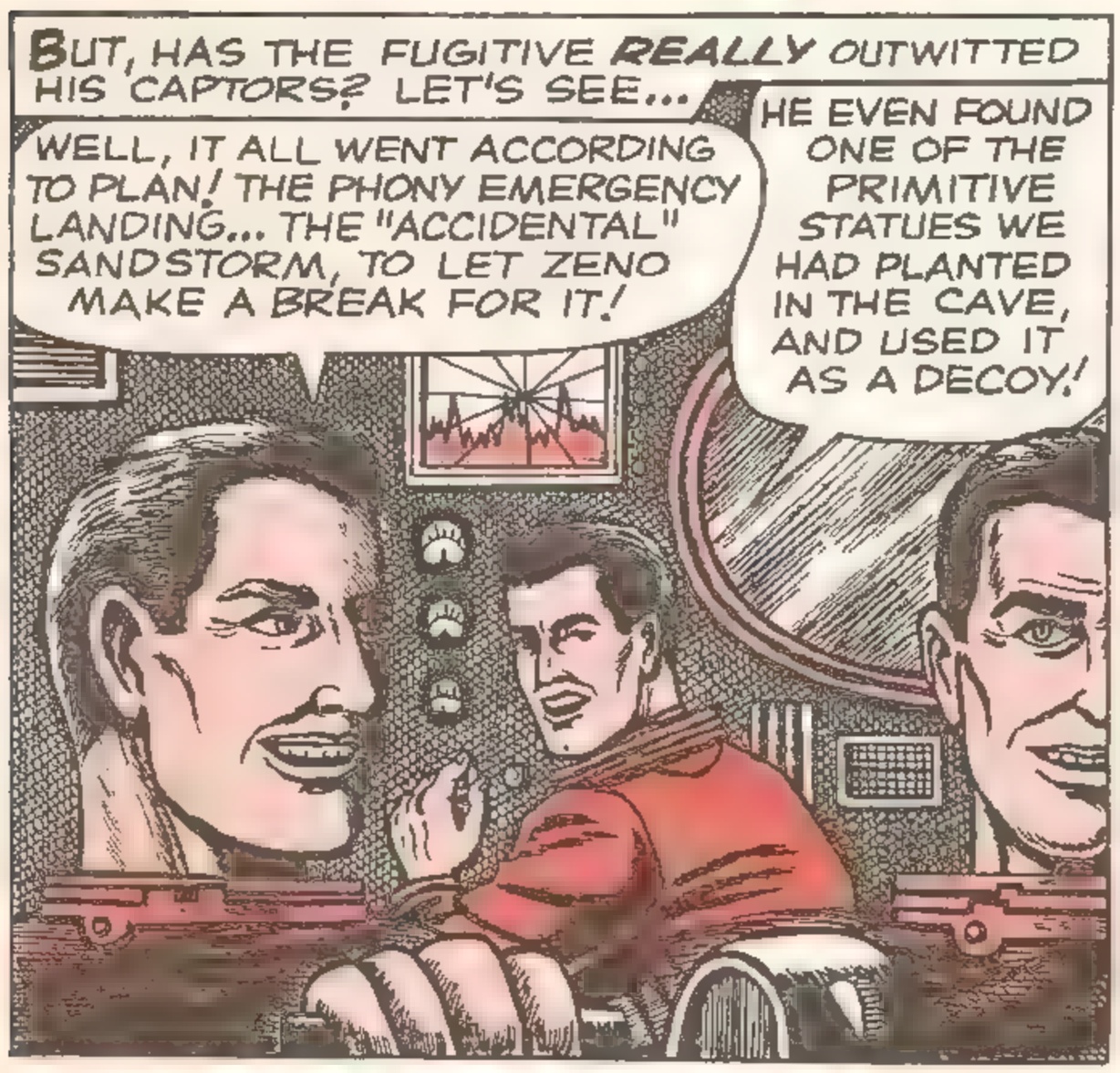
I CAN PUT MY FLIGHT SUIT ON ONE OF THESE FIGURES... AND FROM A DISTANCE ...YEAH, IT JUST MIGHT WORK...


IT TAKES BUT SECONDS TO MAKE THE SWITCH... AND THEN, DRAGGING THE STATUE OUT OF THE CAVE...
THAT CRATER BELOW IS TOO STEEP AND CRAGGY FOR THE SPACEMEN TO ENTER! SO THAT'S WHERE I'LL DROP MY DECOY!


LOOK! IT'S ZENO!
HE'S PLUNGING TO HIS DOOM!

HE'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CRATER-- FINISHED!
NOTHING FOR US TO DO NOW, BUT RETURN TO EARTH!
THE FOOLS! THEY FELL FOR IT!
GUESS HE PREFERRED THAT WAY OUT RATHER THAN SPEND YEARS IN PRISON!

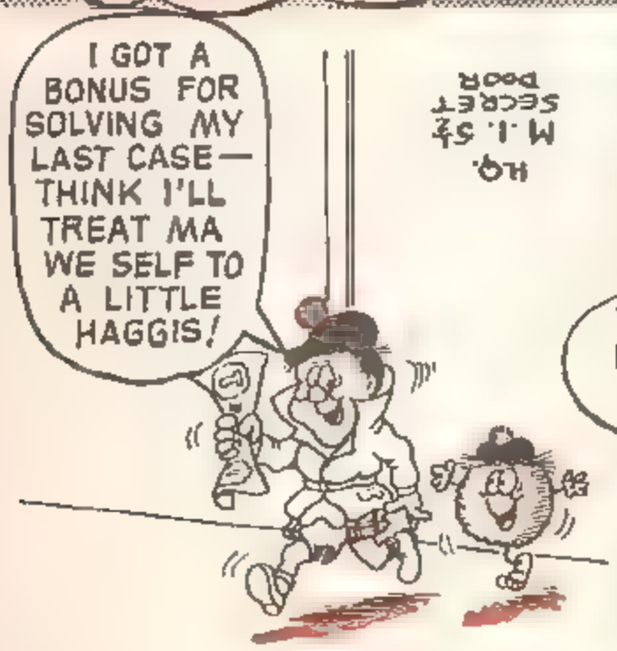
FLUSHED WITH TRIUMPH, CONRAD ZENO WATCHES THE SPACEMEN BLAST OFF!
SURE, I'M STRANDED ON A LONELY PLANET, BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF FOOD AND WATER HERE! AND AT LAST I'M NOT LOCKED IN A DINGY PRISON! I'M OUT IN THE OPEN! I'M FREE!

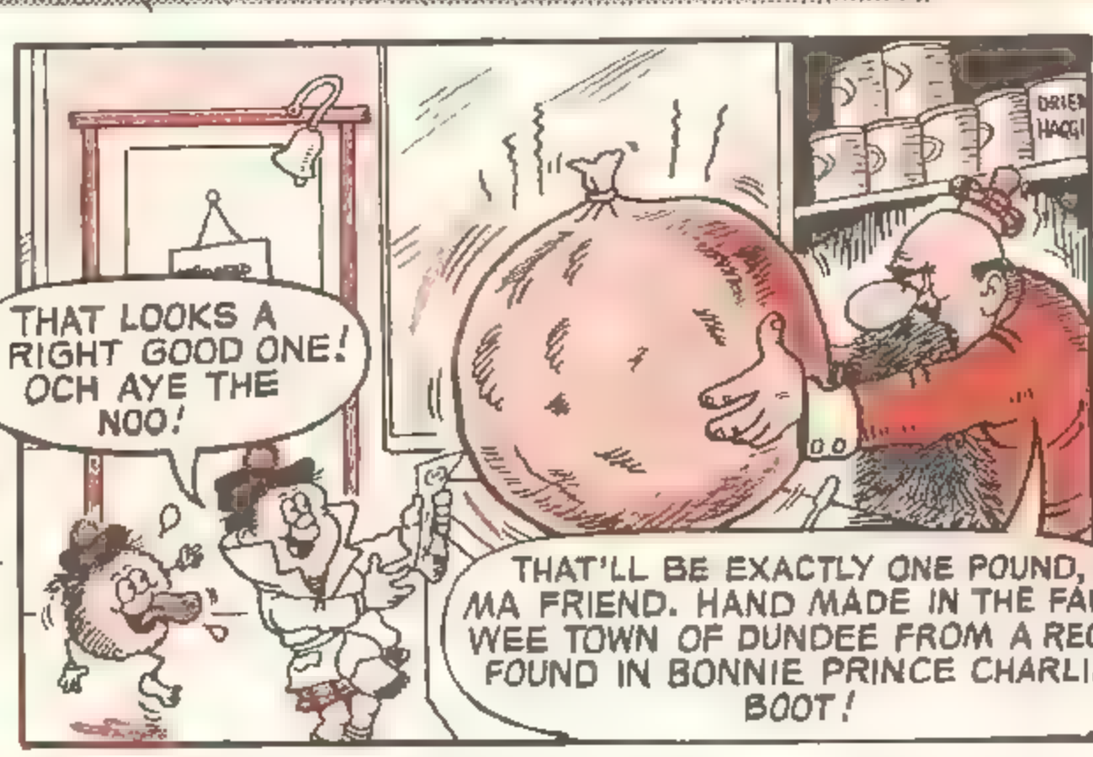

BUT, HAS THE FUGITIVE REALLY OUTWITTED HIS CAPTORS? LET'S SEE...
WELL, IT ALL WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN! THE PHONY EMERGENCY LANDING... THE "ACCIDENTAL" SANDSTORM, TO LET ZENO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!
HE EVEN FOUND ONE OF THE PRIMITIVE STATUES WE HAD PLANTED IN THE CAVE, AND USED IT AS A DECOY!

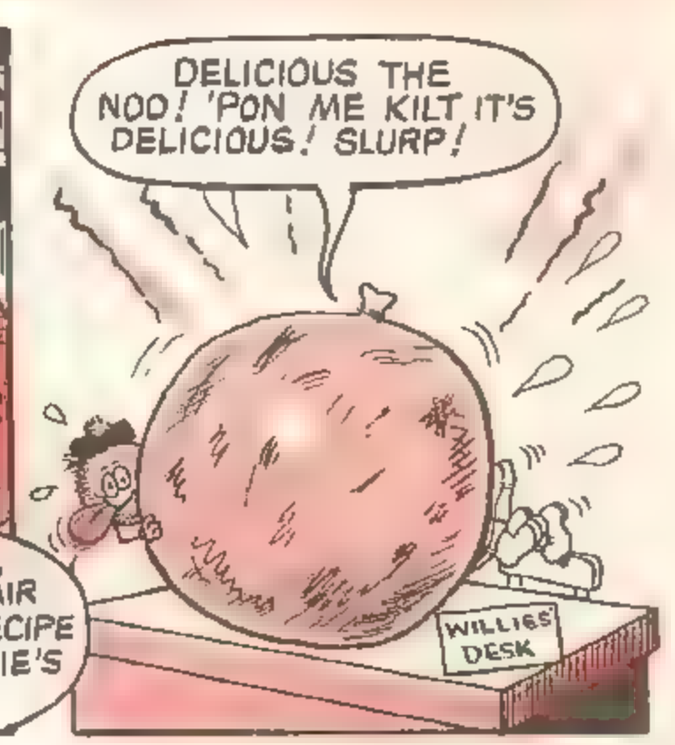
NOW WE CAN FORGET HIM UNTIL HIS TEN-YEAR STRETCH IS UP! THEN, WE'LL COME BACK TO TAKE HIM OFF THE PLANET!
YEAH, LIKE THE GOVERNMENT FIGURES-- THE MOST HUMANE WAY OF HAVING A PRISONER SERVE HIS SENTENCE...

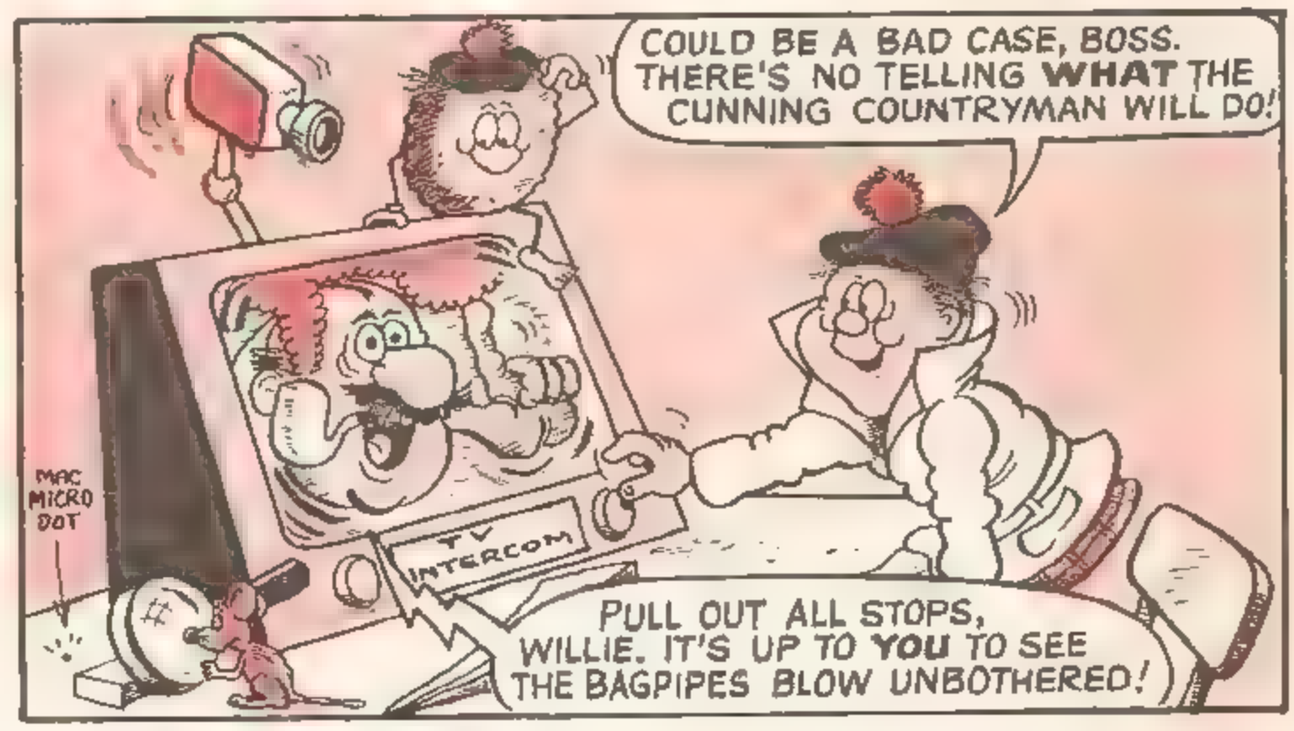
...IS TO LET HIM THINK THAT HE'S FREE!
THE END

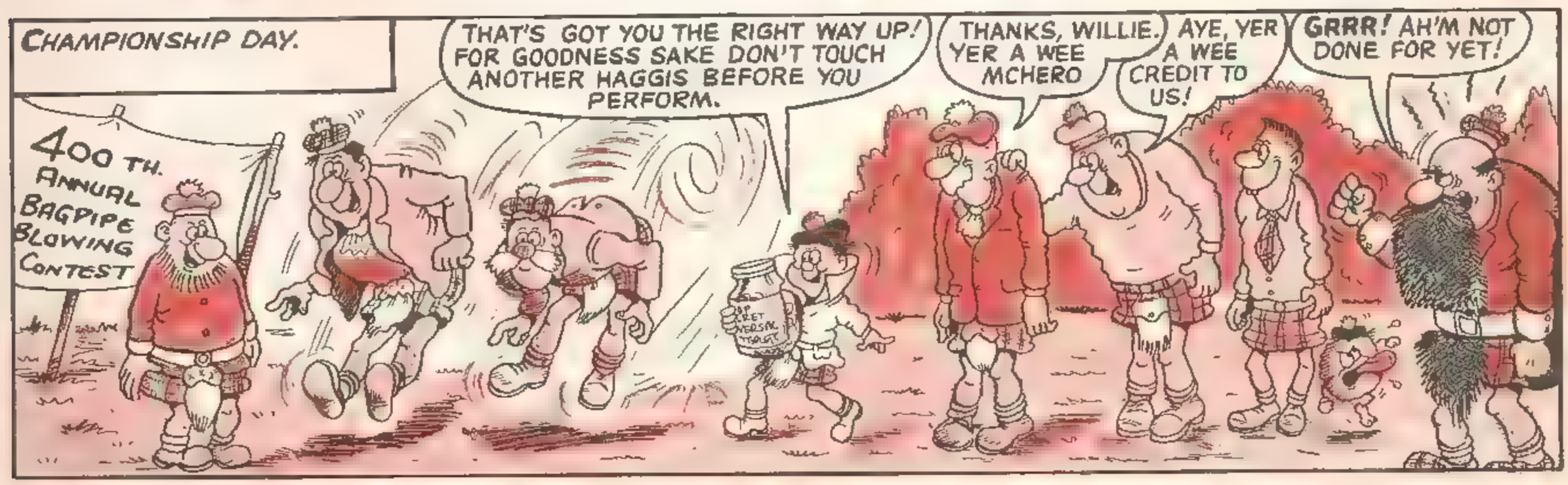
WEE WILLIE HAGGIS
THE SPY FROM SKYE

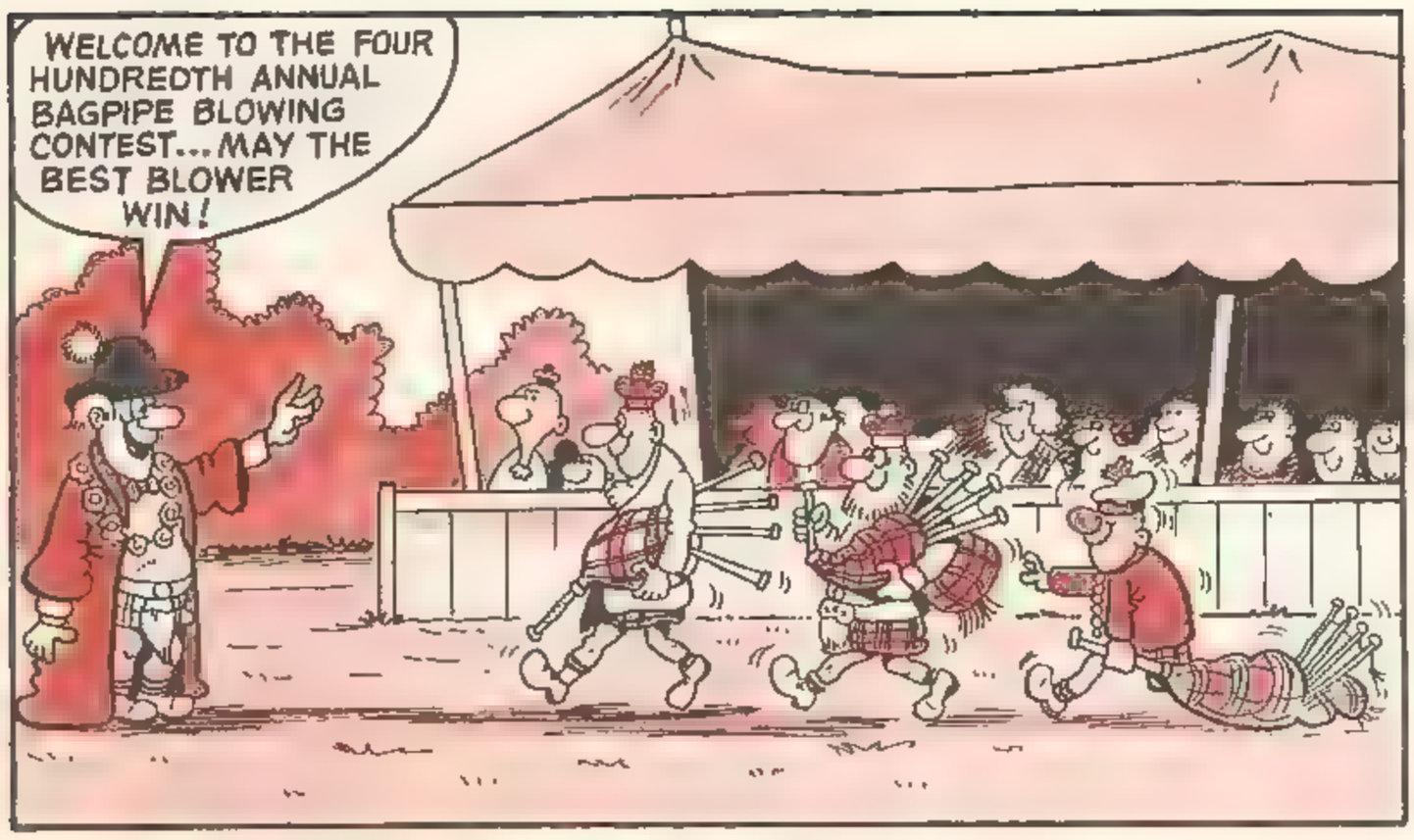


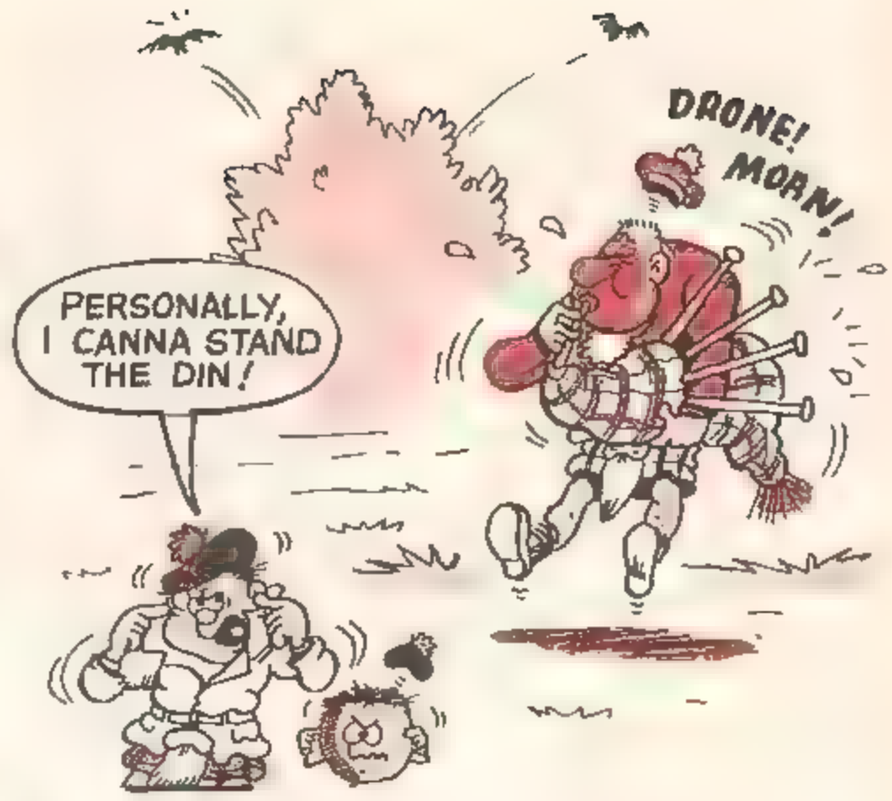


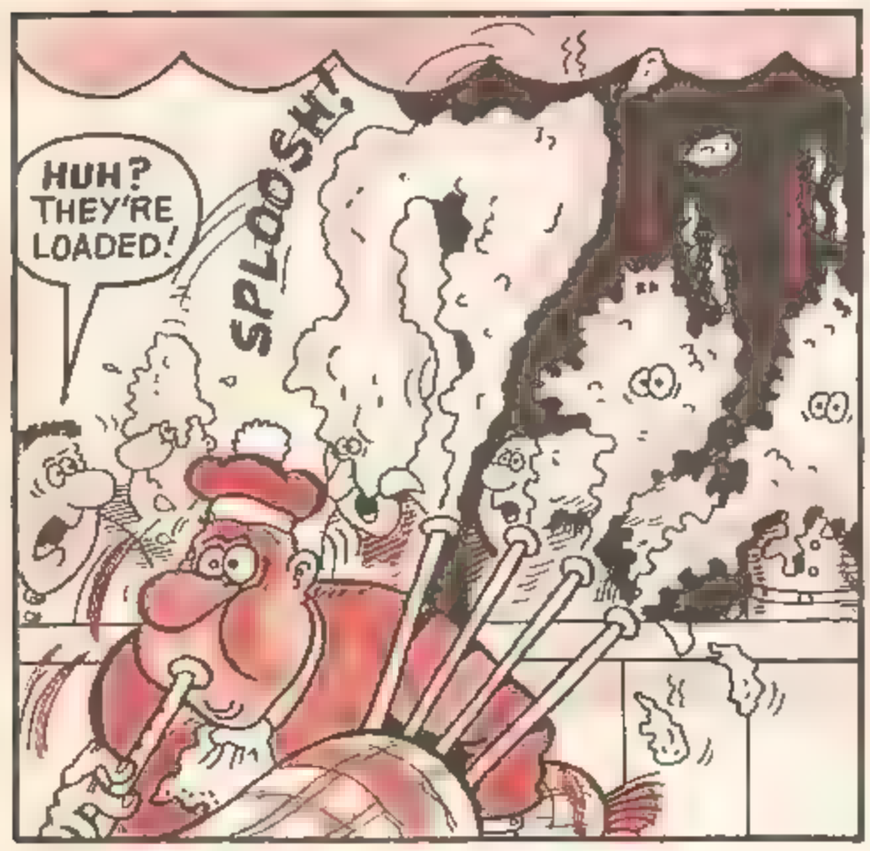


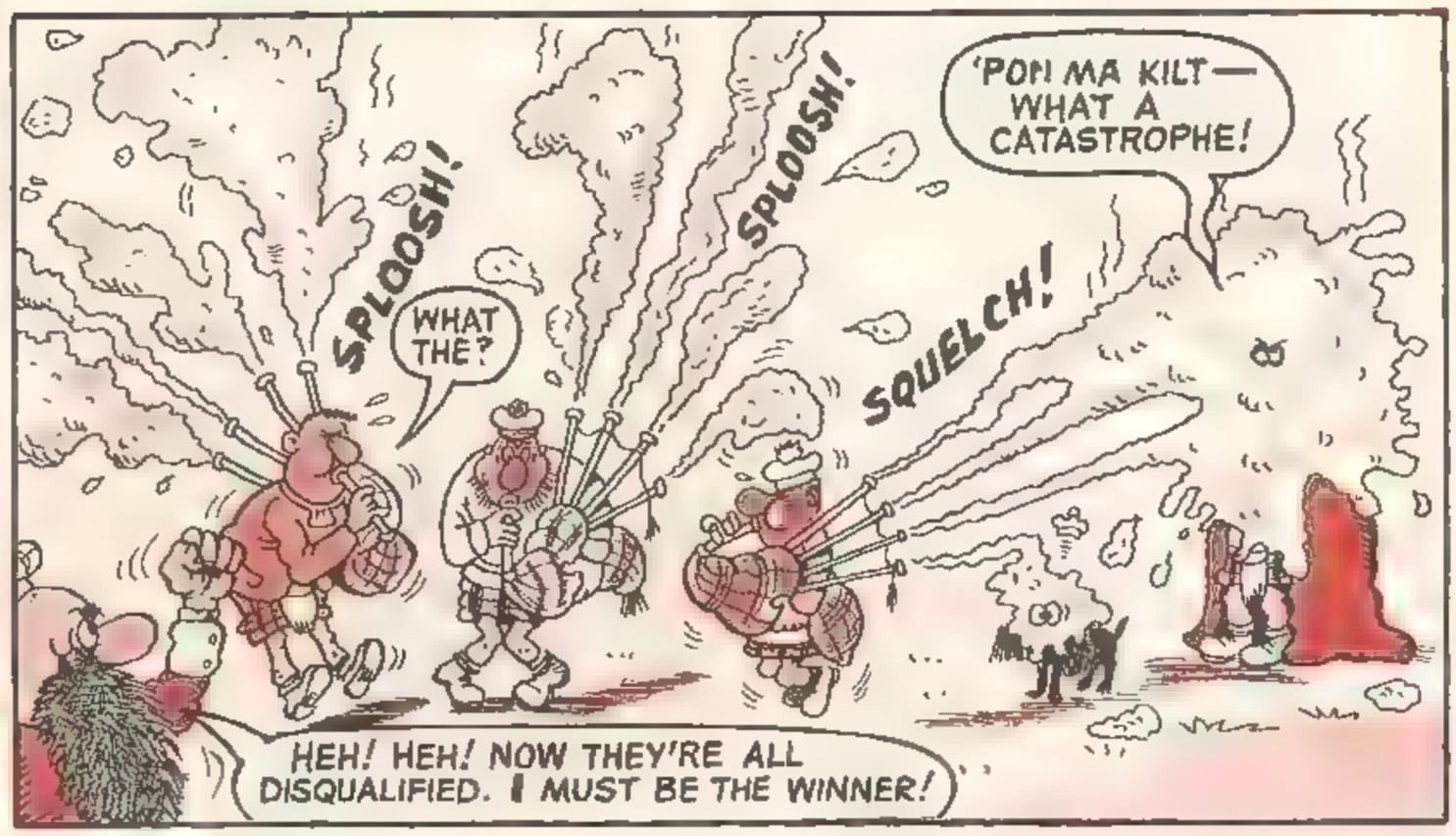


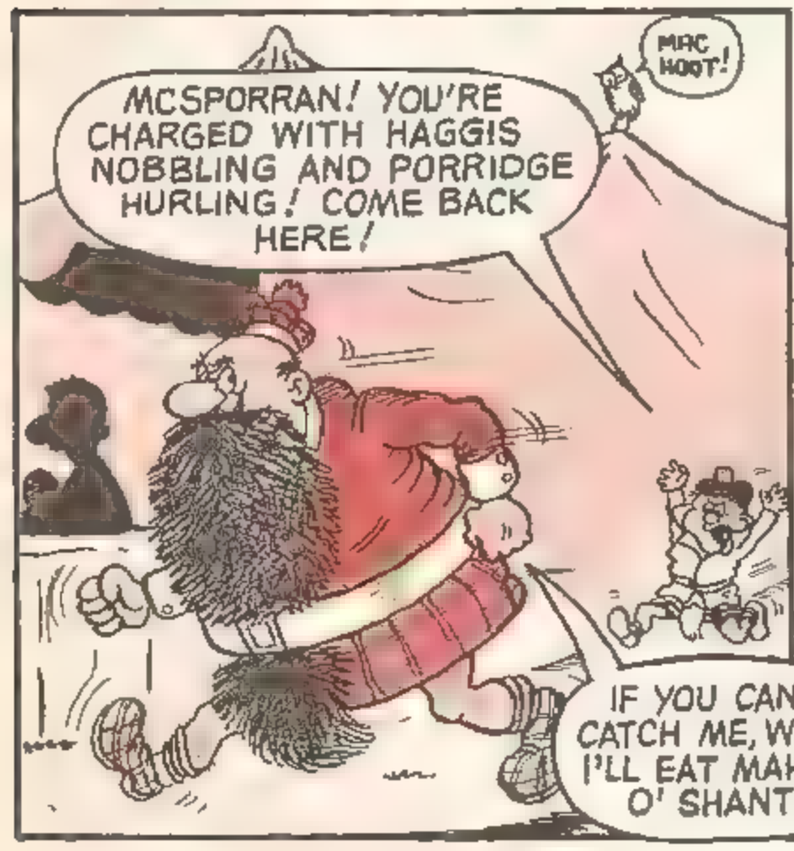


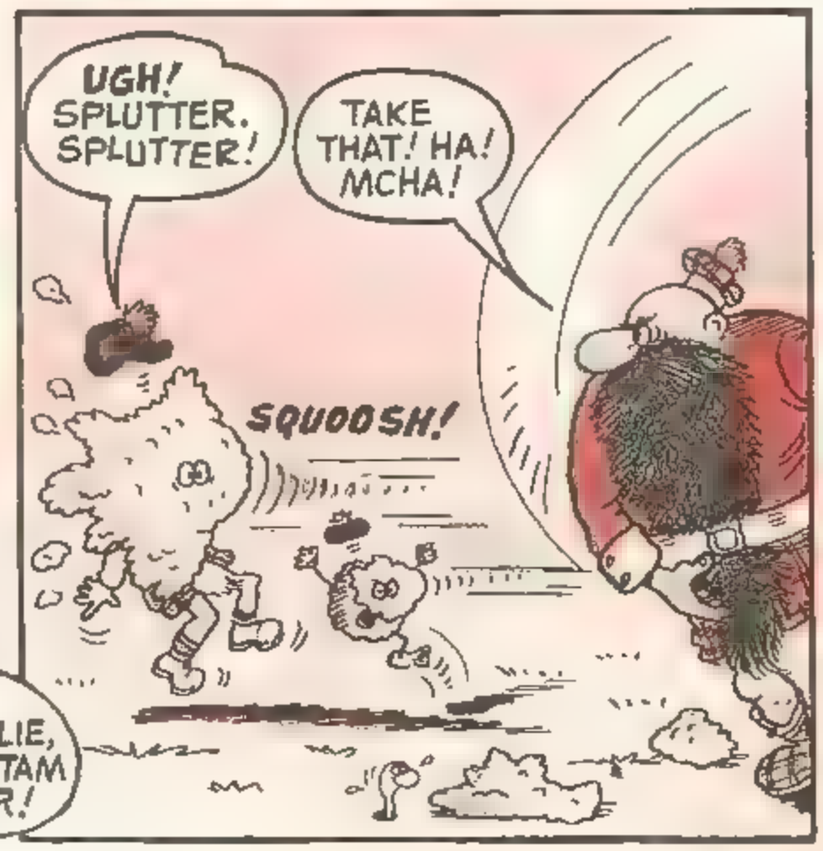

WELCOME TO THE FOUR HUNDREDTH ANNUAL BAGPIPE BLOWING CONTEST... MAY THE BEST BLOWER WIN!


PERSONALLY, I CANNA STAND THE DIN!
DRONE! MOAN!


HUH? THEY'RE LOADED!
SPLOOSH!


SPLOOSH!
WHAT THE?
SPLOOSH!
'POP MA KILT— WHAT A CATASTROPHE!
SQUELCH!
HEH! HEH! NOW THEY'RE ALL DISQUALIFIED. I MUST BE THE WINNER!

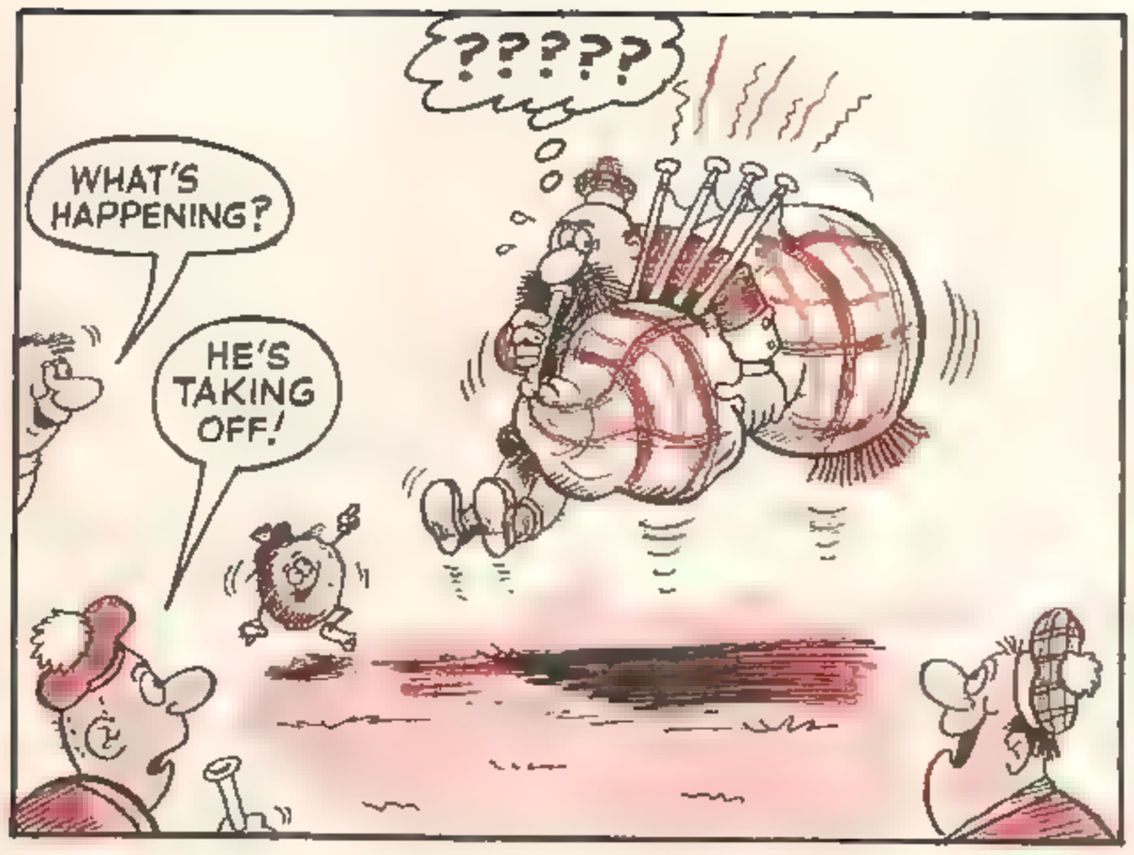

MCSPORRAN! YOU'RE CHARGED WITH HAGGIS NOBBLING AND PORRIDGE HURLING! COME BACK HERE!
MAC HOOT!
IF YOU CAN CATCH ME, WILLIE, I'LL EAT MAH TAM O' SHANTER!


UGH! SPLUTTER. SPLUTTER!
TAKE THAT! HA! MCHA!
SQUOOSH!

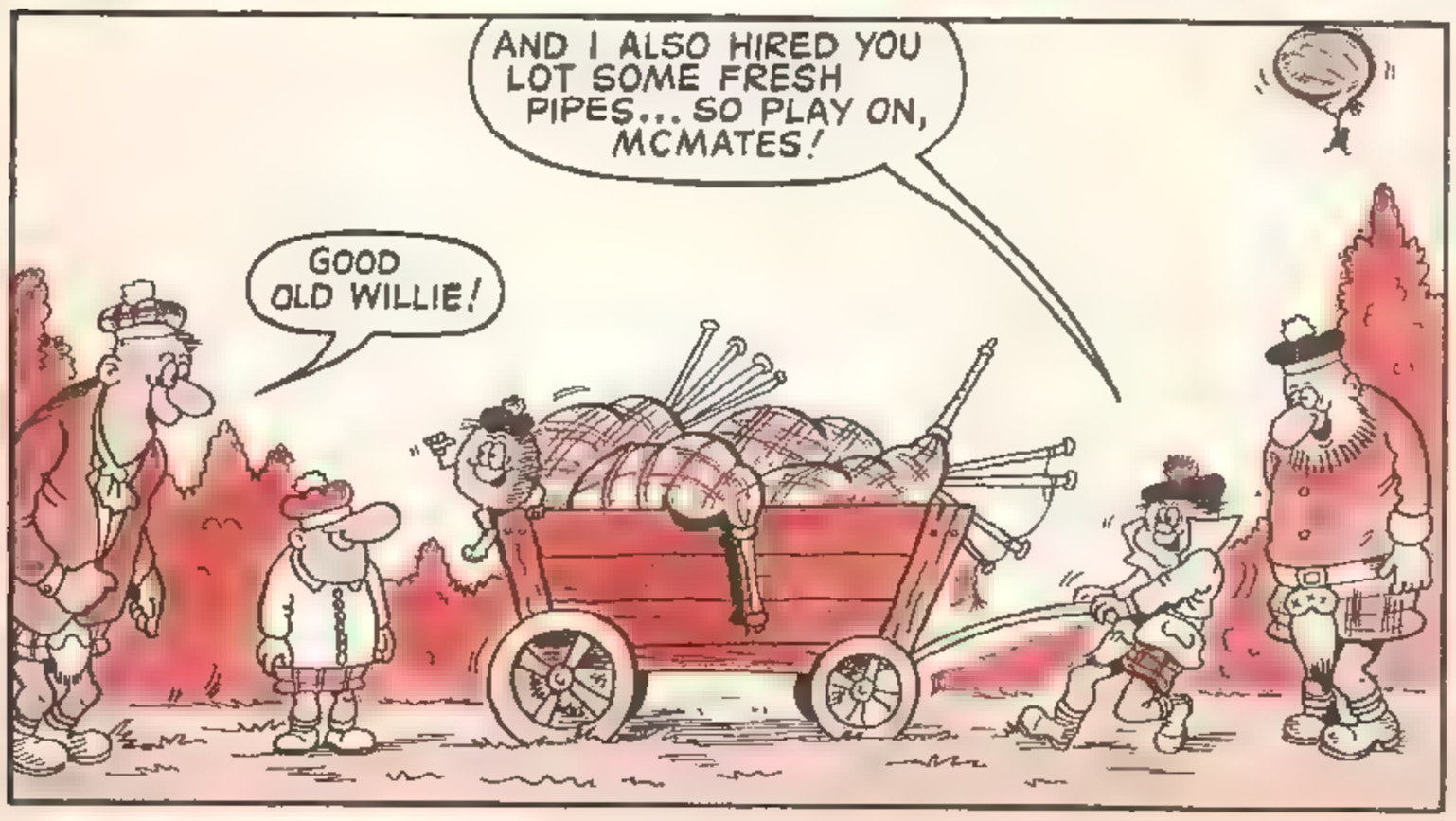
THIS CALLS FOR DRASTIC WEE MEASURES!

AS NOBODY ELSE HAS BAGPIPES IN WORKING ORDER, THERE IS ONLY ONE COMPETITOR, BARON MCSPORRAN.

CHANGING ROOM.
NOW TO GIVE MY GREAT SOLO PERFORMANCE! HA! HA!
JUST MADE IT IN TIME!

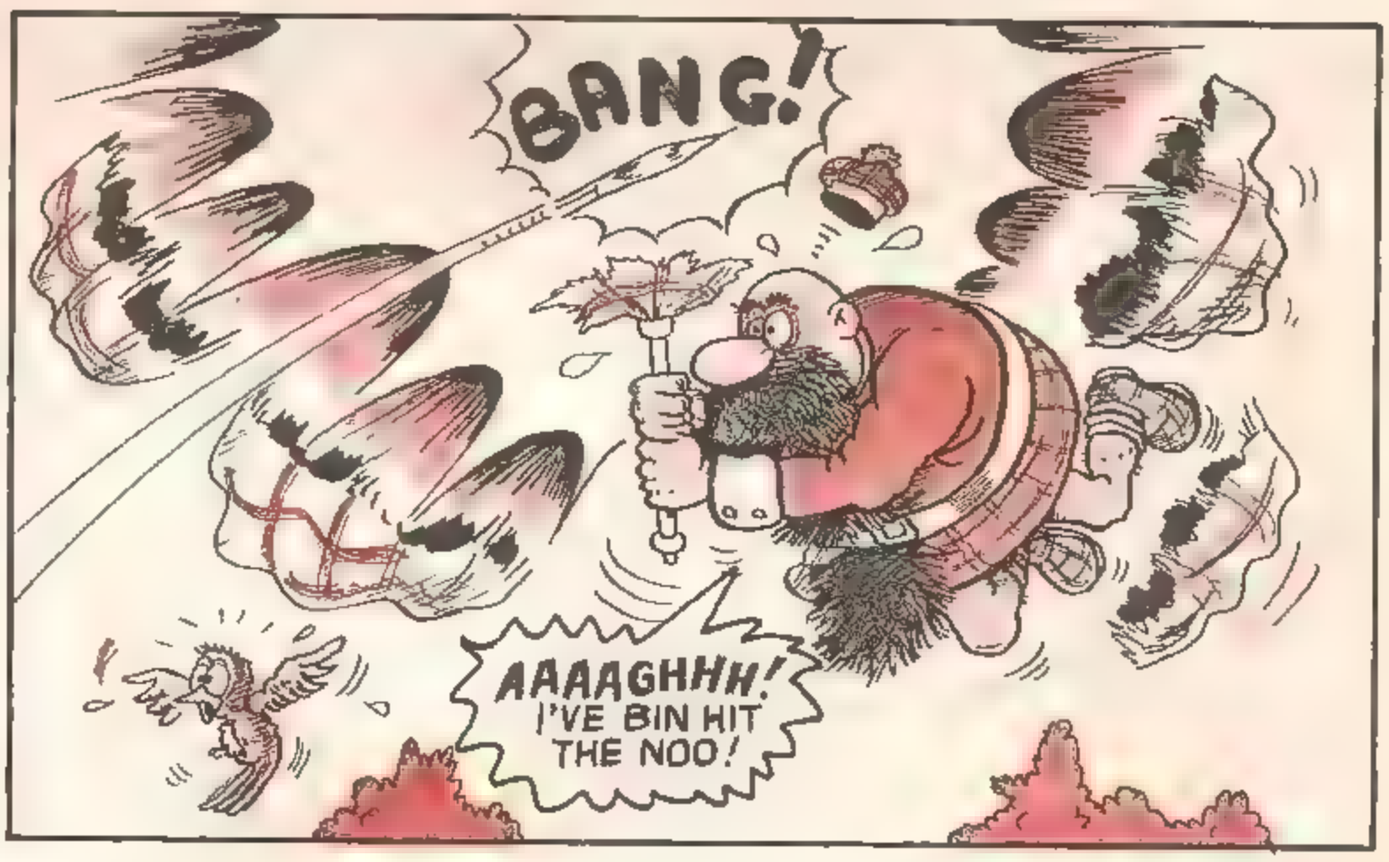

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
HE'S TAKING OFF!
?????

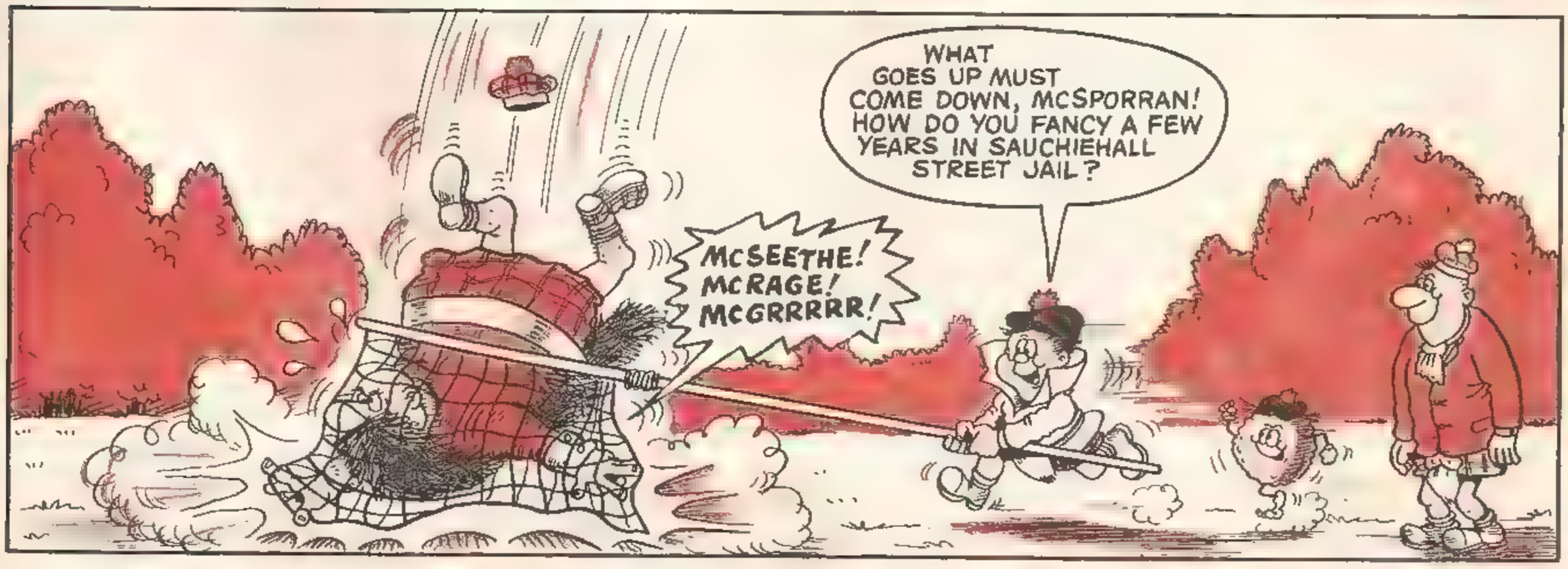
HELP! GET ME DOWN!
HOW DID YOU DO IT, WILLIE?
EASY! I JUST FILLED A SET OF BAG-PIPES WITH GAS AND SWAPPED THEM FOR HIS SET! OCH AYE, AH'M A CLEVER WEE SPY!
HA! HA!
HA!
HA! HA!


GOOD OLD WILLIE!
AND I ALSO HIRED YOU LOT SOME FRESH PIPES... SO PLAY ON, MCMATES!

THERE'S JUST ONE MORE WEE JOB TO SEE TO...

MAH GUIDED MISSILE DART SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
WHIZZZ!


BANG!
AAAAGHHH! I'VE BIN HIT THE NOO!


WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN, MCSPORRAN! HOW DO YOU FANCY A FEW YEARS IN SAUCHIEHALL STREET JAIL?
MCSEETHE! MCRAGE! MCGRRRRR!

PERCY'S PETS

YAWN! IT'S MY BIRTHDAY TODAY. WONDER WHAT SUPER PRESENTS I'LL GET?

HMM! DAD'S BRIGHT AND BREEZY THIS MORNING. WONDER WHAT THE JOKE IS?

PERCY'S ROOM PRIVIT!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HO HO

WE'VE BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE PRESENT.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SON!

SUPER! WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS IT?

THIS SIDE UP

WE KNEW YOU ALWAYS WANTED ONE!

HA-HA! HEE! HO! HO! HA-HA! HAW-HAW-AW! HEE-HEE! HA-HA-HA!

IT'S A HYENA— A LAUGHING HYENA! THAT REALLY COMPLETES MY COLLECTION.

THIS SIDE UP

LATER...

THERE'S A SPECIAL ANIMALS SERVICE ON AT THE CHURCH. I'LL TAKE MY NEW HYENA ALONG! BET NO OTHER KID HAS ONE!

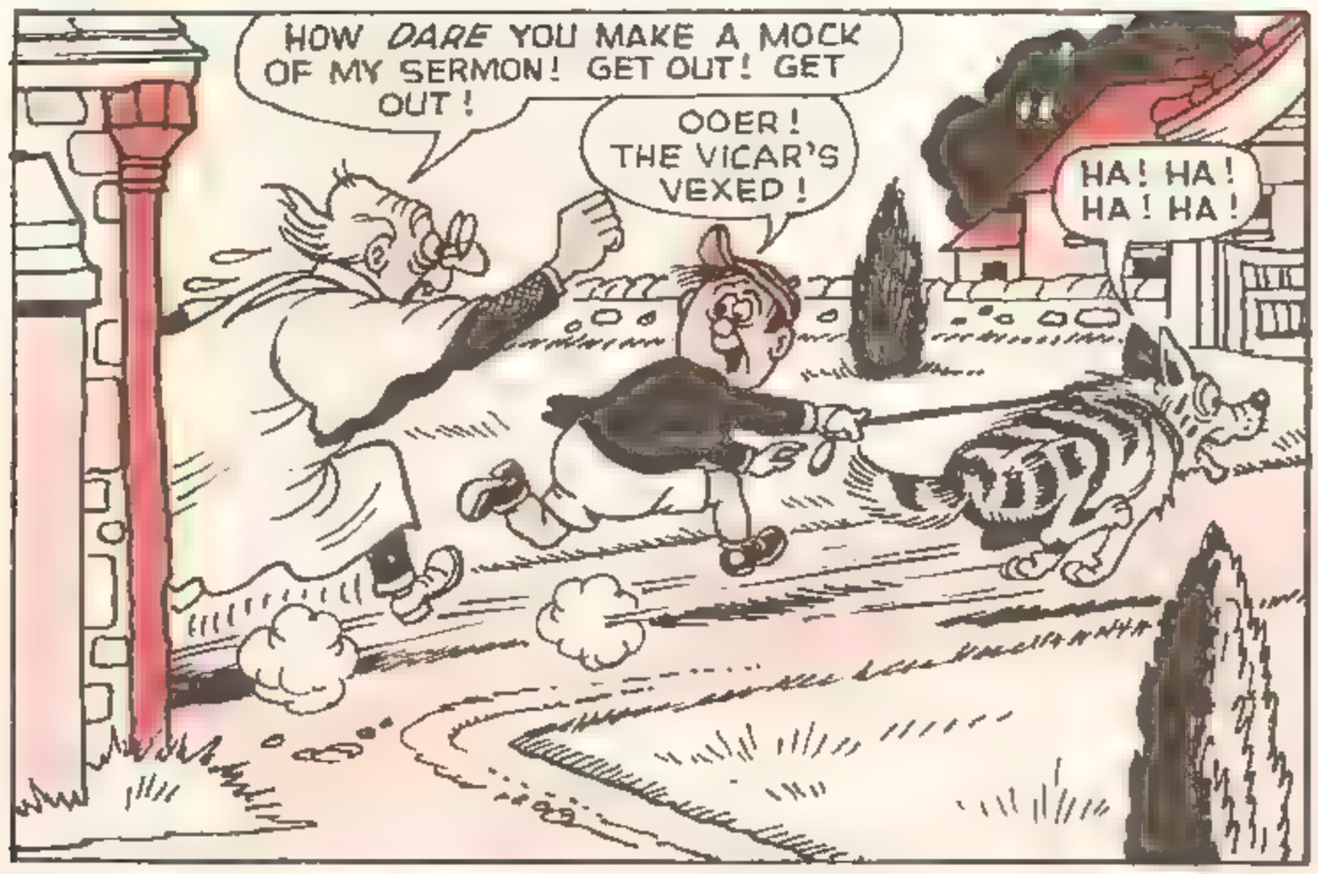
SOPPY OL' DOGS AND MOGGIES! *I'VE* GOT A REAL LIVE HYENA!

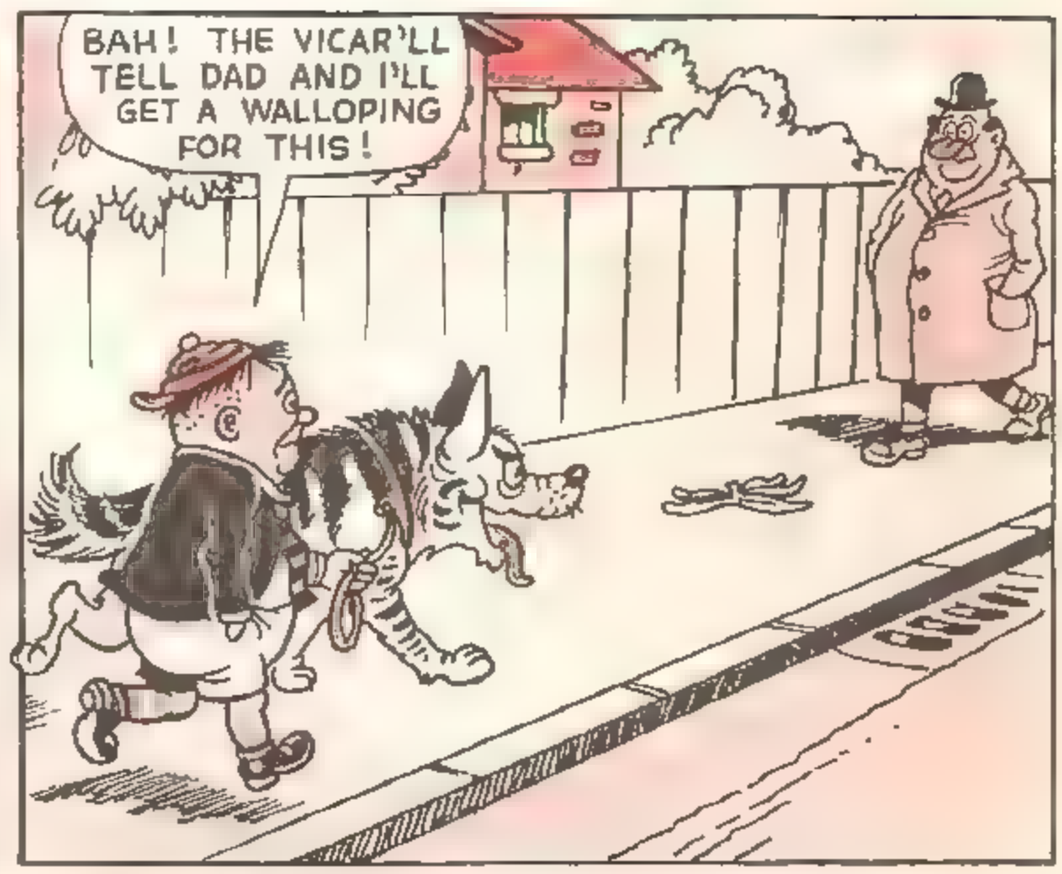
LUCKY OL' PERCY! YOU HAVE *ALL* THE LUCK!

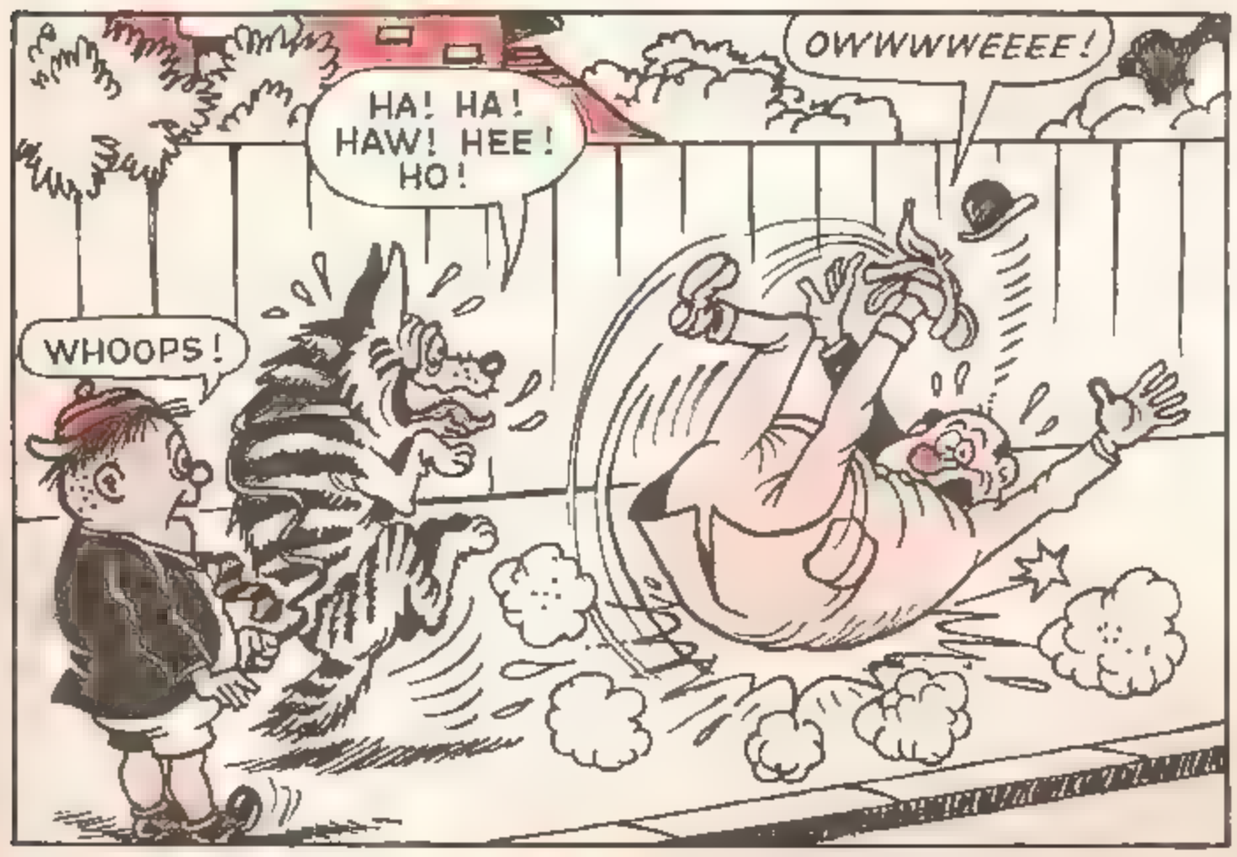
HYMNS. 11 & 10

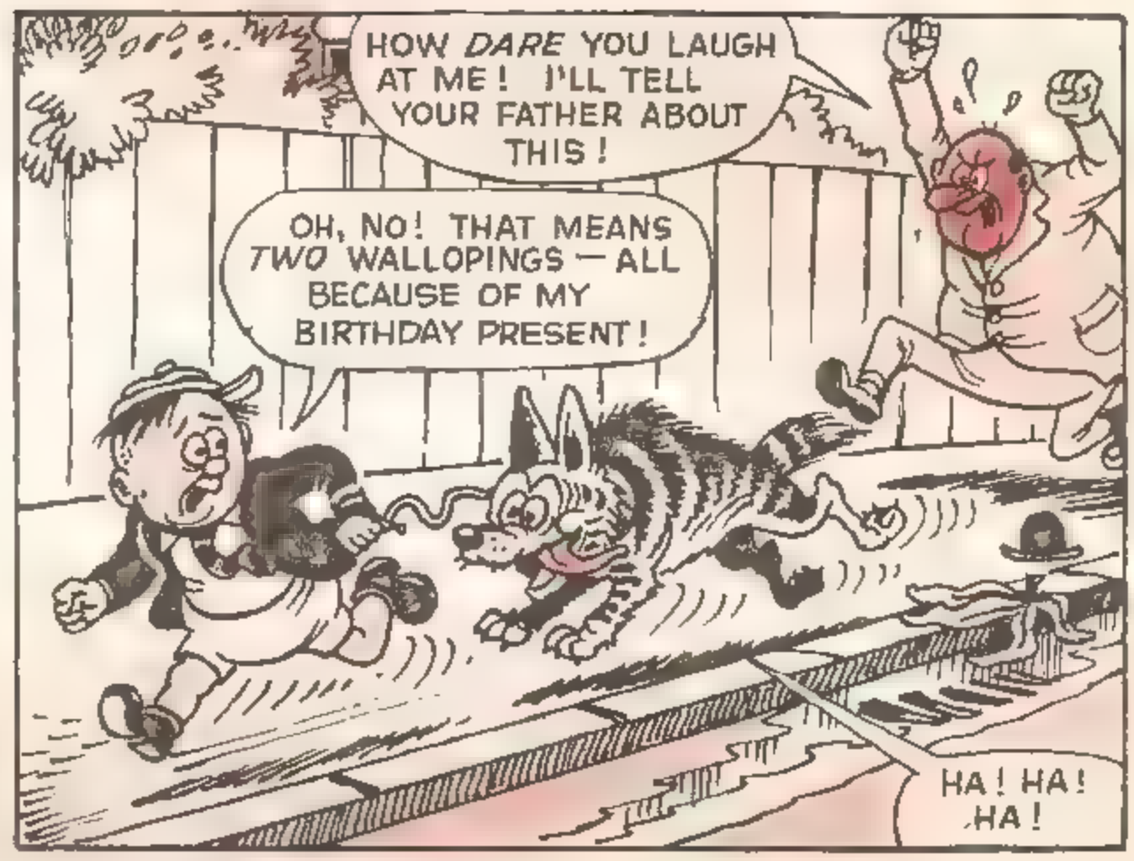
WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY...

HA-HA! HA-HA! HO-HO-HA! HOO-OO HAW! HAW! HIC!

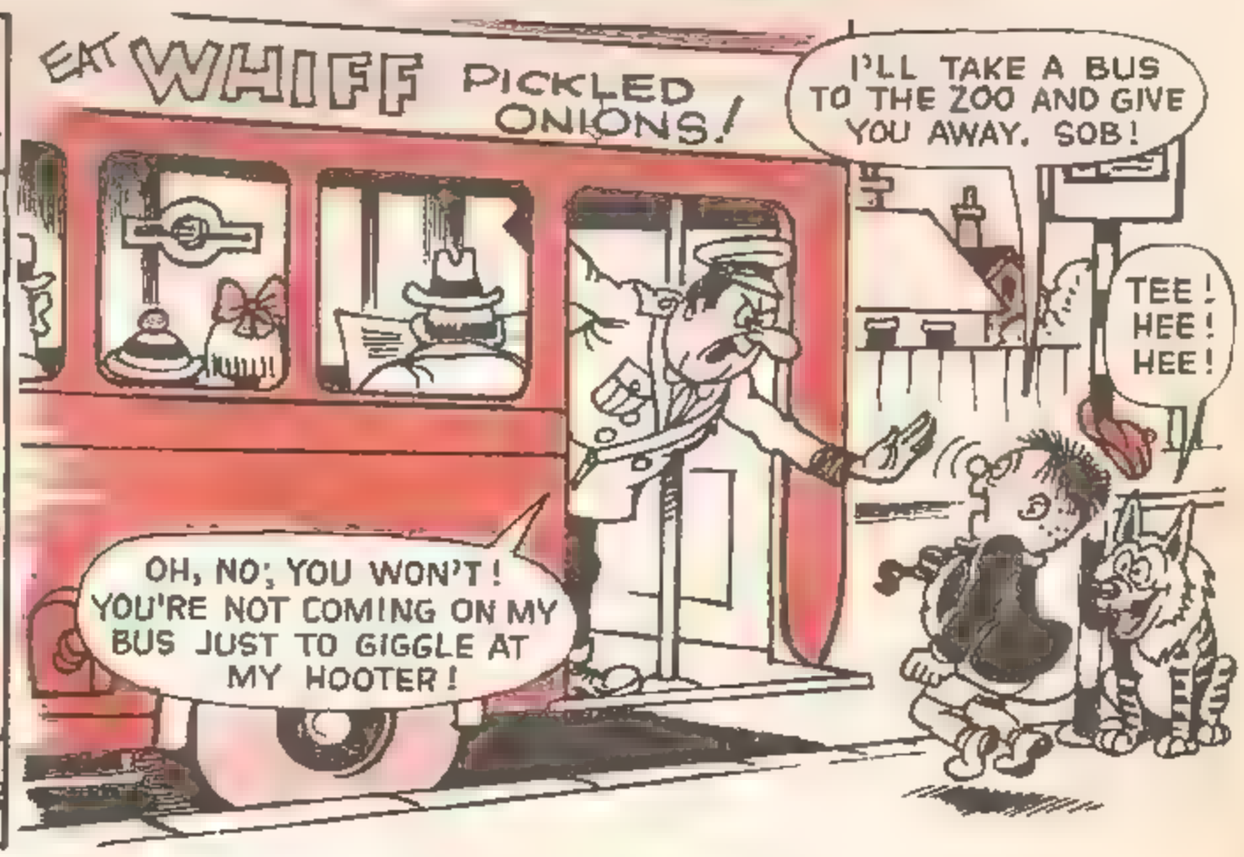

HOW *DARE* YOU MAKE A MOCK OF MY SERMON! GET OUT! GET OUT!
OOER! THE VICAR'S VEXED!
HA! HA! HA! HA!

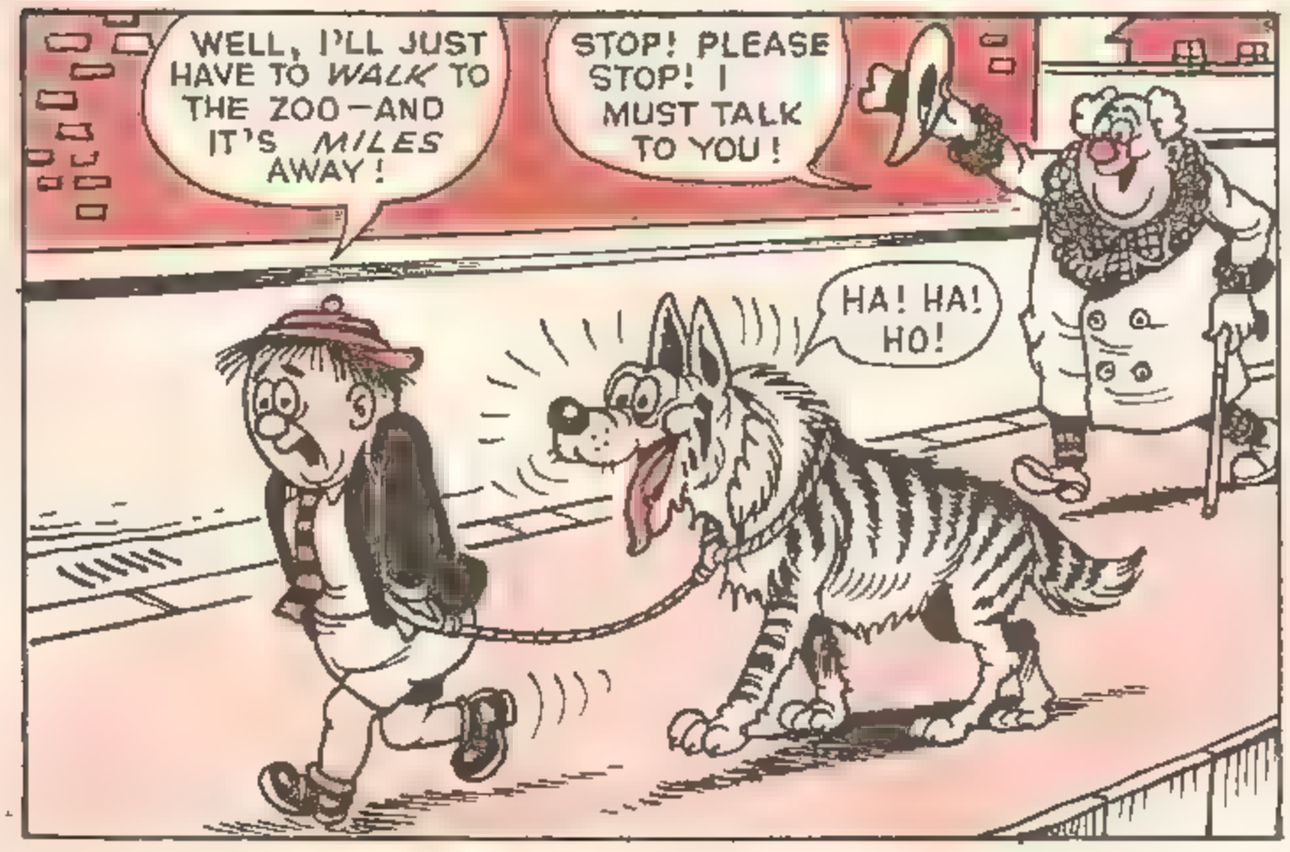

BAH! THE VICAR'LL TELL DAD AND I'LL GET A WALLOPING FOR THIS!


OWWWWEEEE!
HA! HA! HAW! HEE! HO!
WHOOPS!


HOW *DARE* YOU LAUGH AT ME! I'LL TELL YOUR FATHER ABOUT THIS!
OH, NO! THAT MEANS *TWO* WALLOPINGS — ALL BECAUSE OF MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
HA! HA! HA!

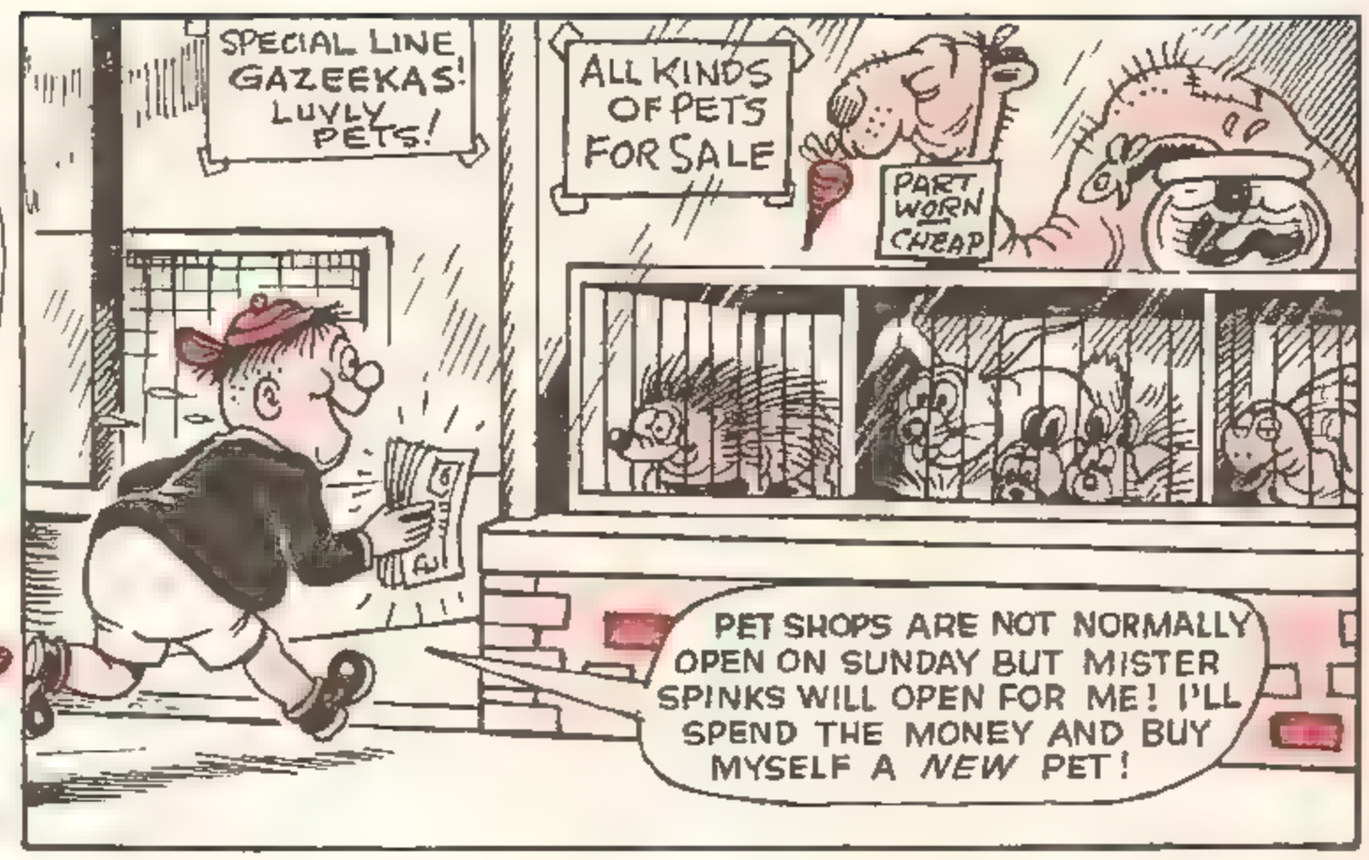
SORRY, OLD PAL, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET RID OF YOU. YOU'RE CAUSING ME TOO MUCH TROUBLE!
HA! HA! HA!


EAT WHIFF PICKLED ONIONS!
I'LL TAKE A BUS TO THE ZOO AND GIVE YOU AWAY. SOB!
TEE! HEE! HEE!
OH, NO; YOU WON'T! YOU'RE NOT COMING ON MY BUS JUST TO GIGGLE AT MY HOOTER!

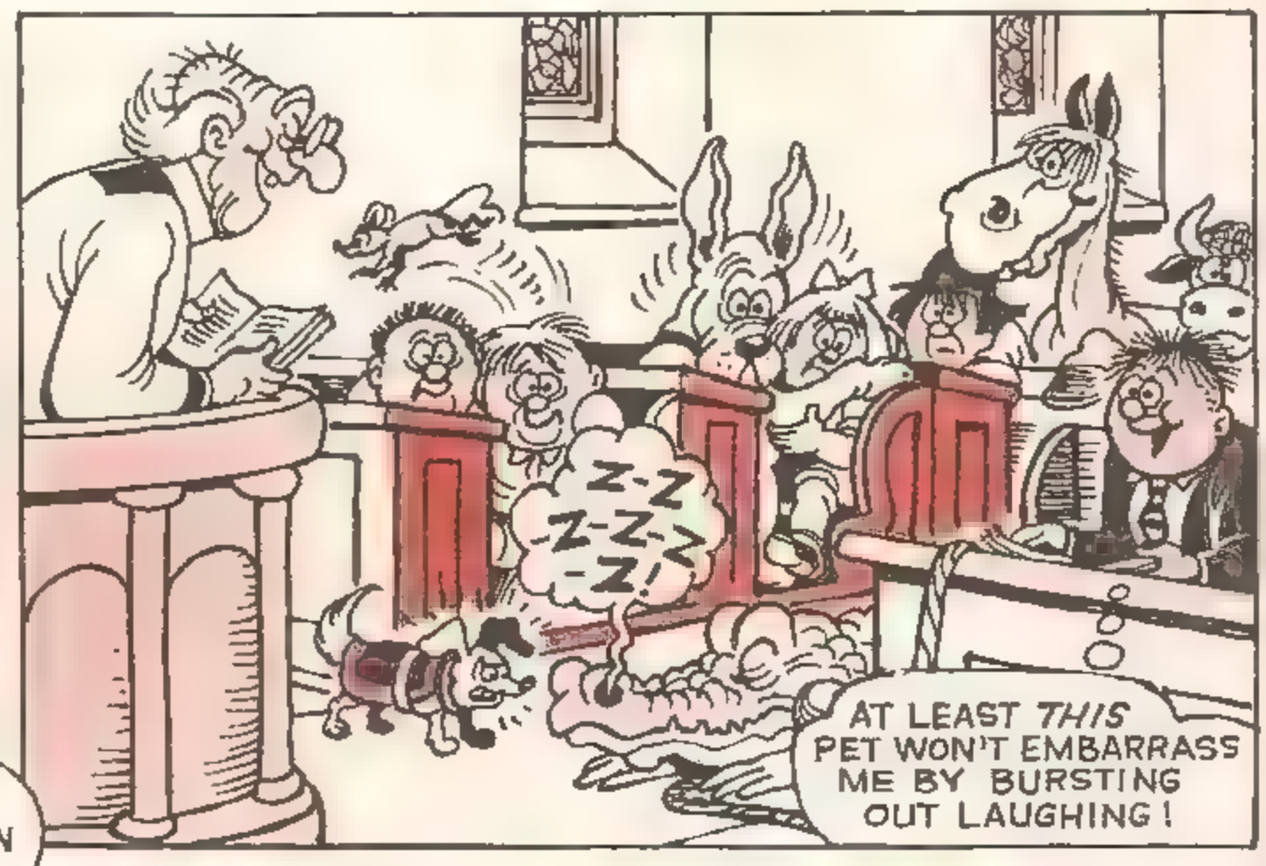

WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO *WALK* TO THE ZOO—AND IT'S *MILES* AWAY!
STOP! PLEASE STOP! I MUST TALK TO YOU!
HA! HA! HO!

LET ME BUY THAT HYENA FROM YOU—I NEED IT DESPERATELY!
HUH? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

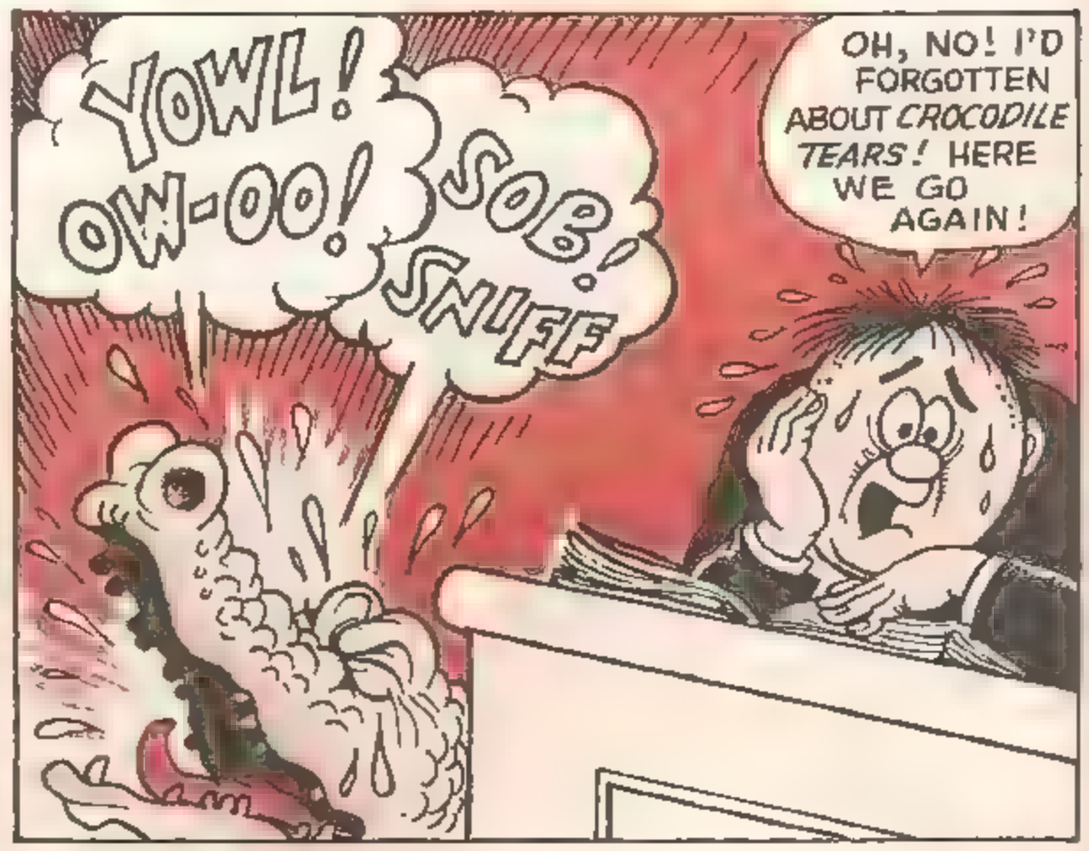
I'M A COMEDIAN AND I NEED HIM TO LAUGH AT MY ROTTEN OLD JOKES! ONCE *HE* STARTS LAUGHING, EVERYBODY ELSE WILL JOIN IN! HA! HA!

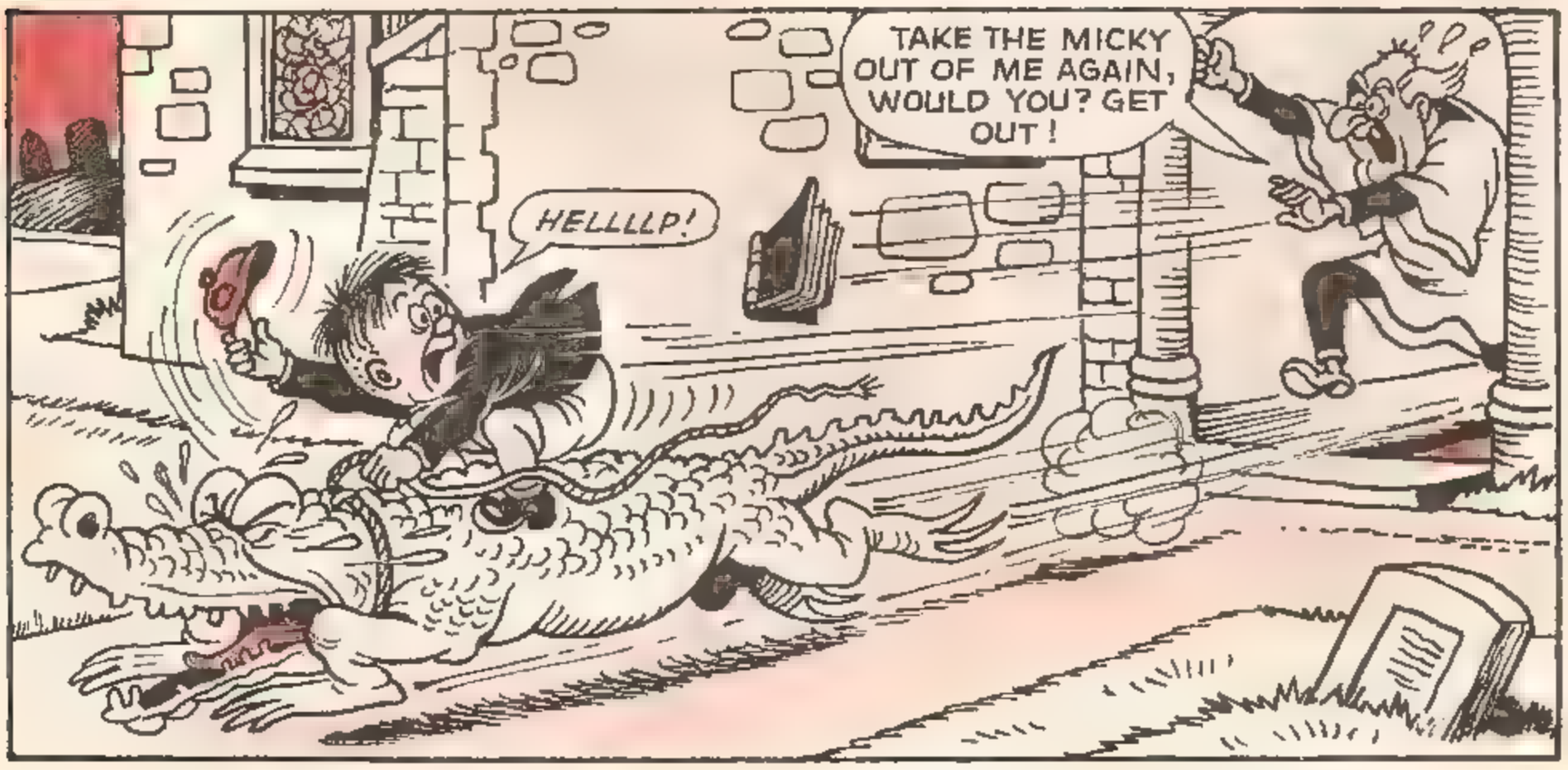

SPECIAL LINE GAZEEKAS! LUVLY PETS!
ALL KINDS OF PETS FOR SALE
PART WORN CHEAP
PET SHOPS ARE NOT NORMALLY OPEN ON SUNDAY BUT MISTER SPINKS WILL OPEN FOR ME! I'LL SPEND THE MONEY AND BUY MYSELF A *NEW* PET!

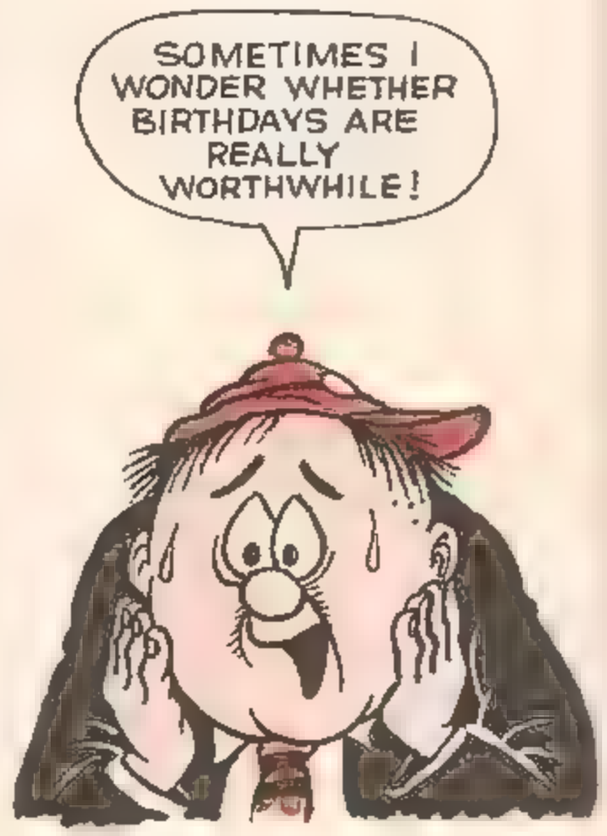
LITTER FOR SALE
SPECIAL HOUSE-TRAINED BUFFALOES
I'LL TAKE MY NEW PET TO THE ANIMALS SERVICE AND APOLOGISE TO THE VICAR! THEN AT LEAST I'LL SAVE MYSELF *ONE* WALLOPING!


Z-Z Z-Z-Z -Z!
AT LEAST *THIS* PET WON'T EMBARRASS ME BY BURSTING OUT LAUGHING!

WAH! SOB! SOB! BOO-HOO! SNIFF!!!

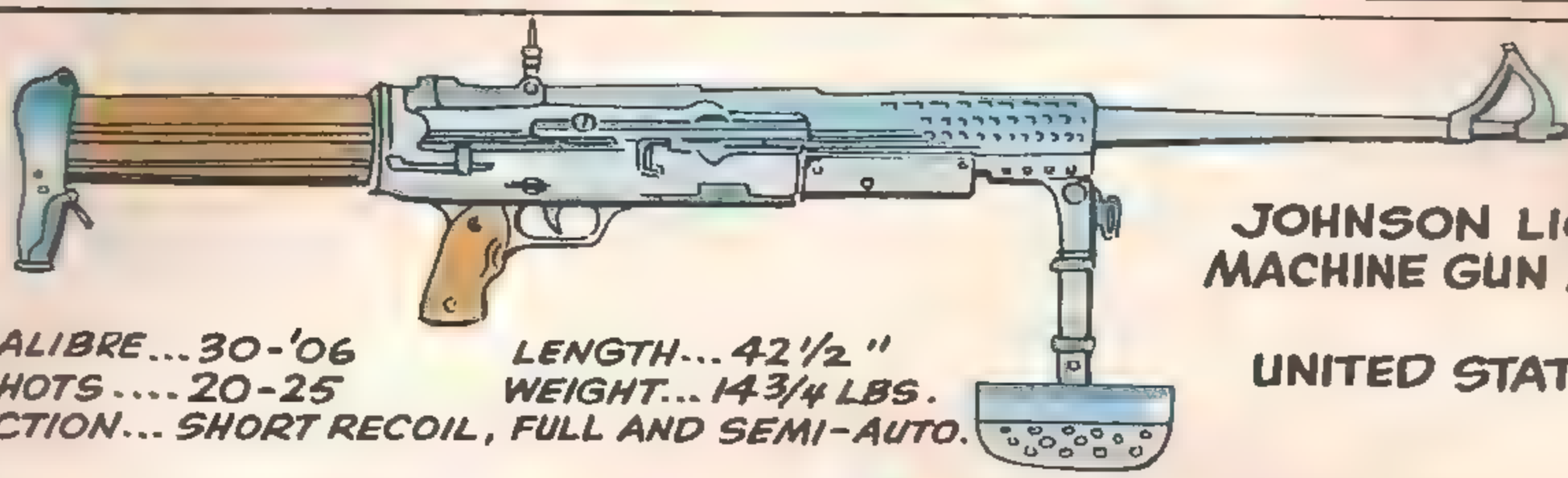

YOWL! OW-OO! SOB! SNIFF
OH, NO! I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT *CROCODILE TEARS!* HERE WE GO AGAIN!


HELLLLP!
TAKE THE MICKY OUT OF ME AGAIN, WOULD YOU? GET OUT!


SOMETIMES I WONDER WHETHER BIRTHDAYS ARE REALLY WORTHWHILE!

WEAPONS OF WAR

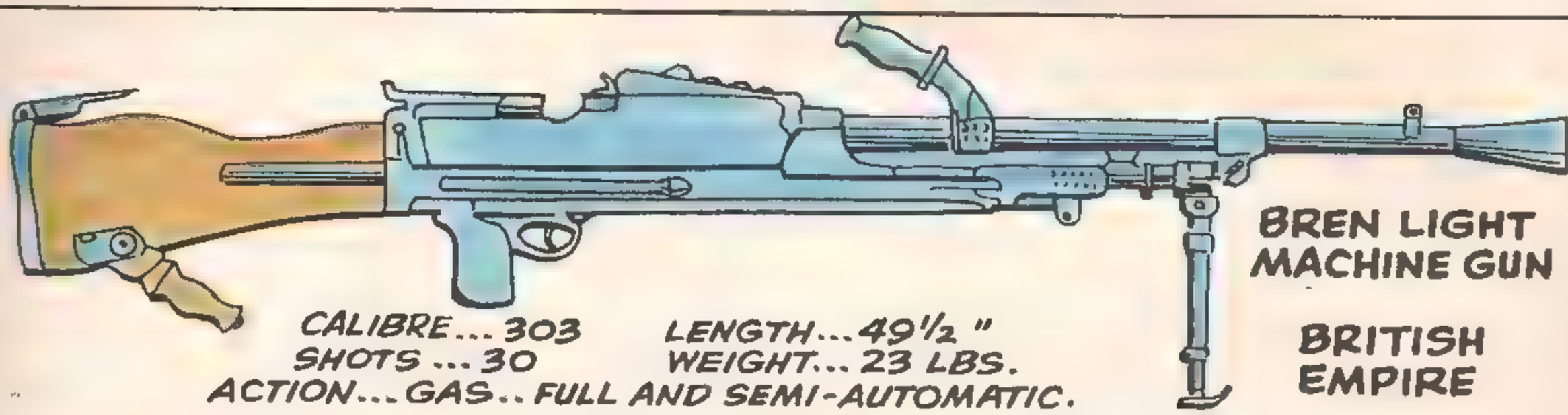
LIGHT MACHINE GUNS OF WORLD WAR II



JOHNSON LIGHT MACHINE GUN M'44

UNITED STATES

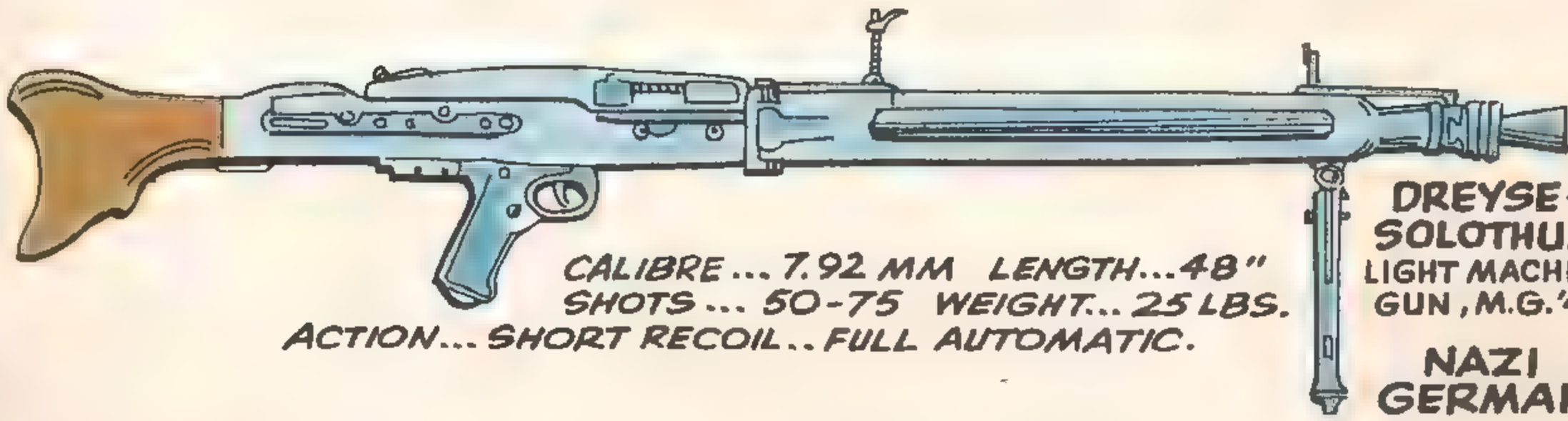
CALIBRE... 30-'06
SHOTS.... 20-25
LENGTH... 42½"
WEIGHT... 14¾ LBS.
ACTION... SHORT RECOIL, FULL AND SEMI-AUTO.



BREN LIGHT MACHINE GUN

BRITISH EMPIRE

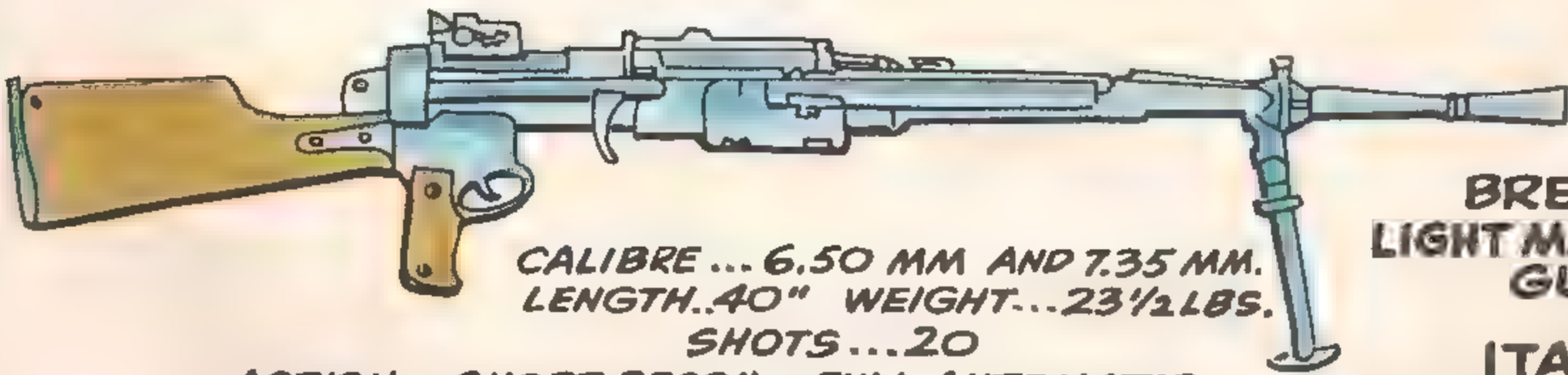
CALIBRE... 303
SHOTS... 30
LENGTH... 49½"
WEIGHT... 23 LBS.
ACTION... GAS.. FULL AND SEMI-AUTOMATIC.



DREYSE-SOLOTHURN LIGHT MACHINE GUN, M.G.'42

NAZI GERMANY

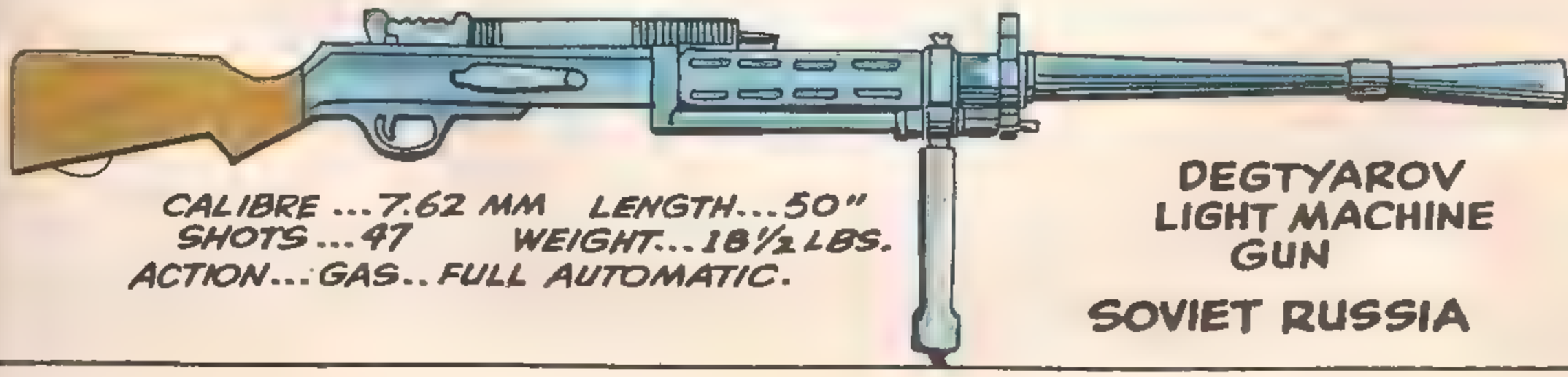
CALIBRE... 7.92 MM
SHOTS... 50-75
LENGTH... 48"
WEIGHT... 25 LBS.
ACTION... SHORT RECOIL.. FULL AUTOMATIC.



BREDA LIGHT MACHINE GUN

ITALY

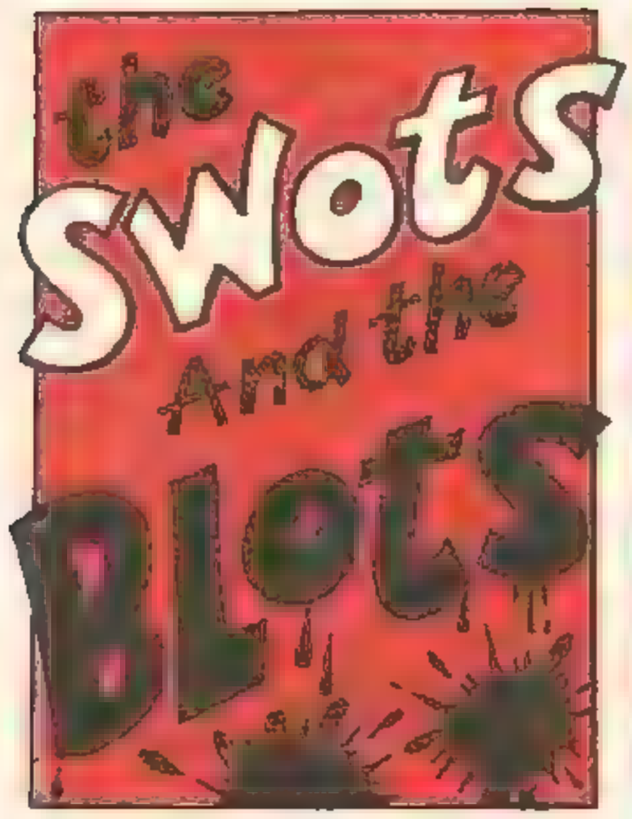
CALIBRE... 6.50 MM AND 7.35 MM.
LENGTH.. 40" WEIGHT... 23½ LBS.
SHOTS... 20
ACTION... SHORT RECOIL.. FULL AUTOMATIC

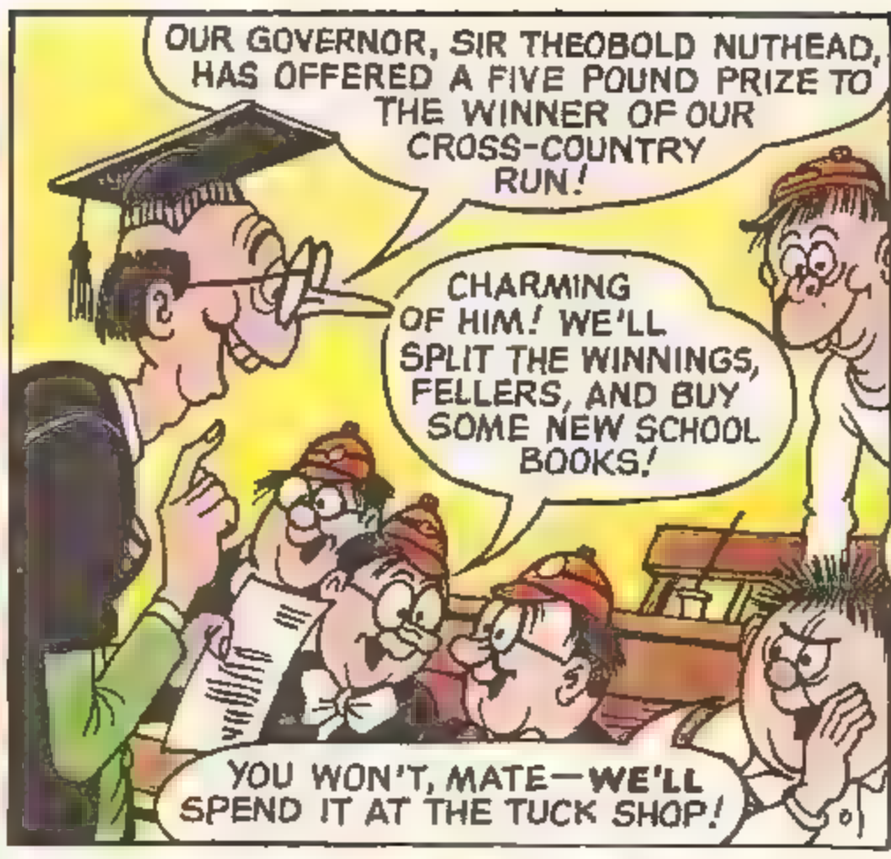


DEGTYAROV LIGHT MACHINE GUN

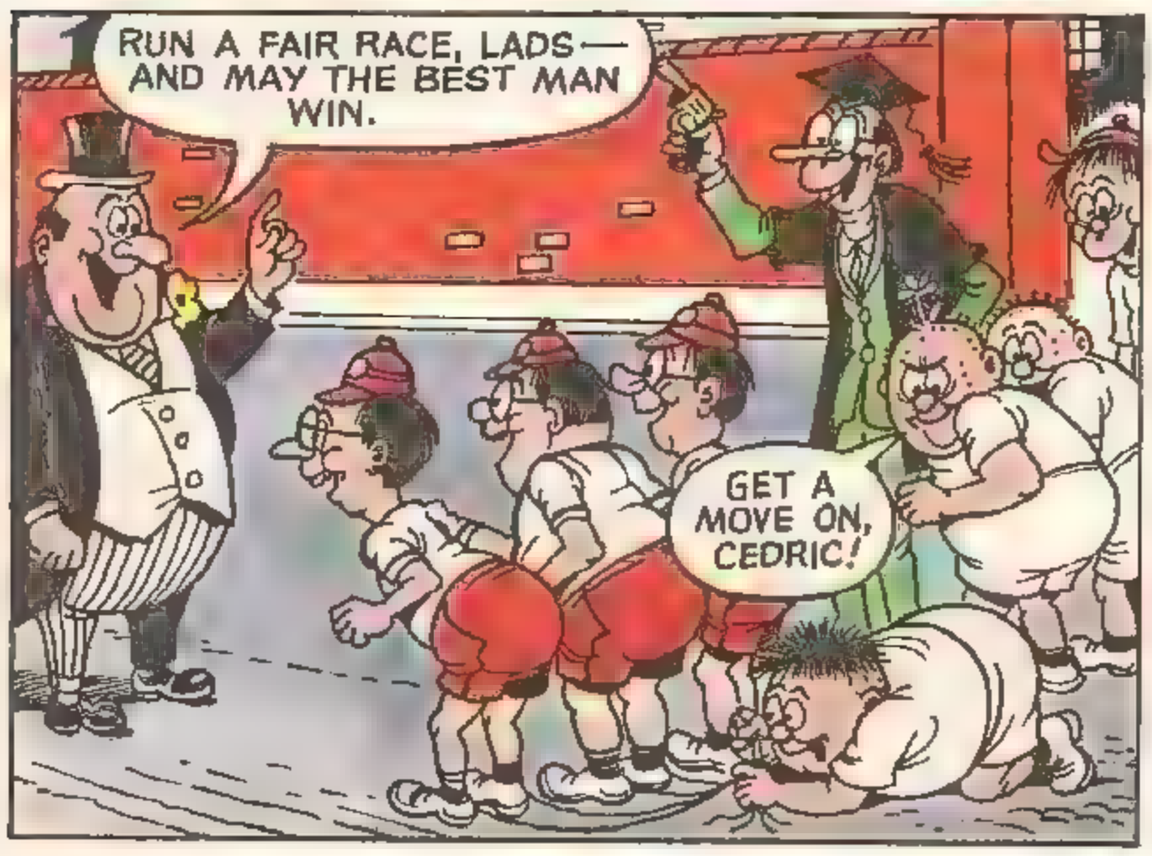
SOVIET RUSSIA

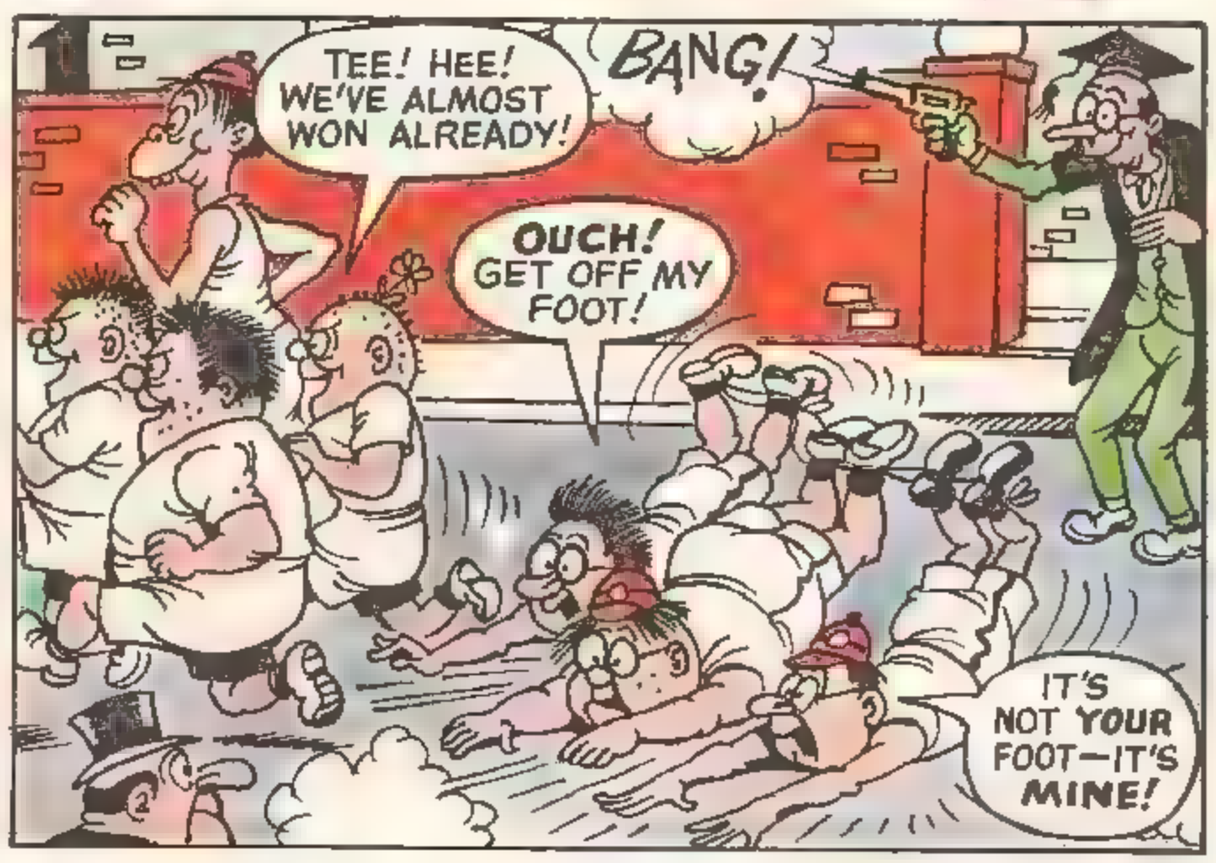
CALIBRE... 7.62 MM
SHOTS... 47
LENGTH... 50"
WEIGHT... 18½ LBS.
ACTION... GAS.. FULL AUTOMATIC.


The Swots And the Blots

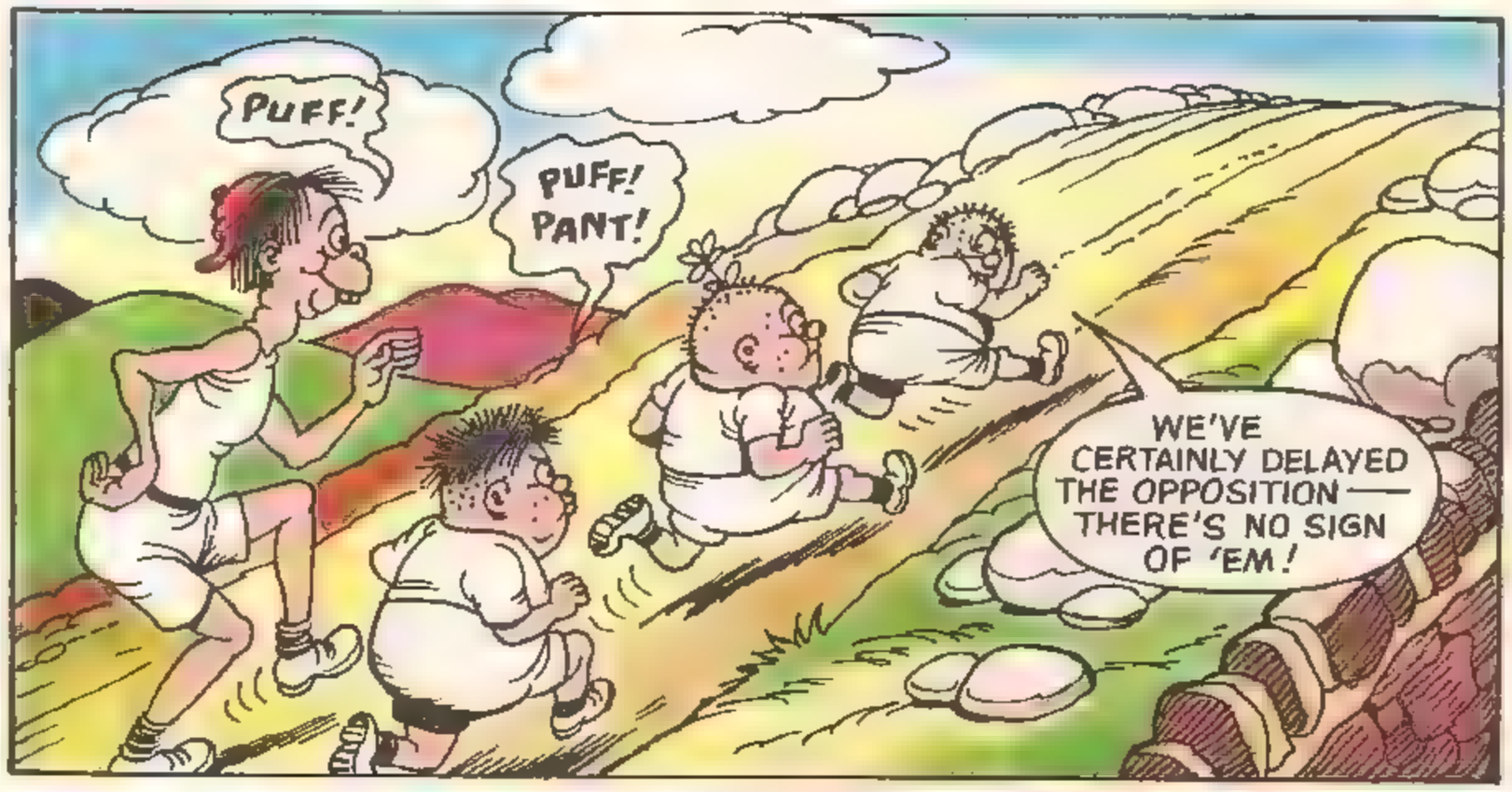

OUR GOVERNOR, SIR THEOBOLD NUTHEAD, HAS OFFERED A FIVE POUND PRIZE TO THE WINNER OF OUR CROSS-COUNTRY RUN!
CHARMING OF HIM! WE'LL SPLIT THE WINNINGS, FELLERS, AND BUY SOME NEW SCHOOL BOOKS!
YOU WON'T, MATE—WE'LL SPEND IT AT THE TUCK SHOP!

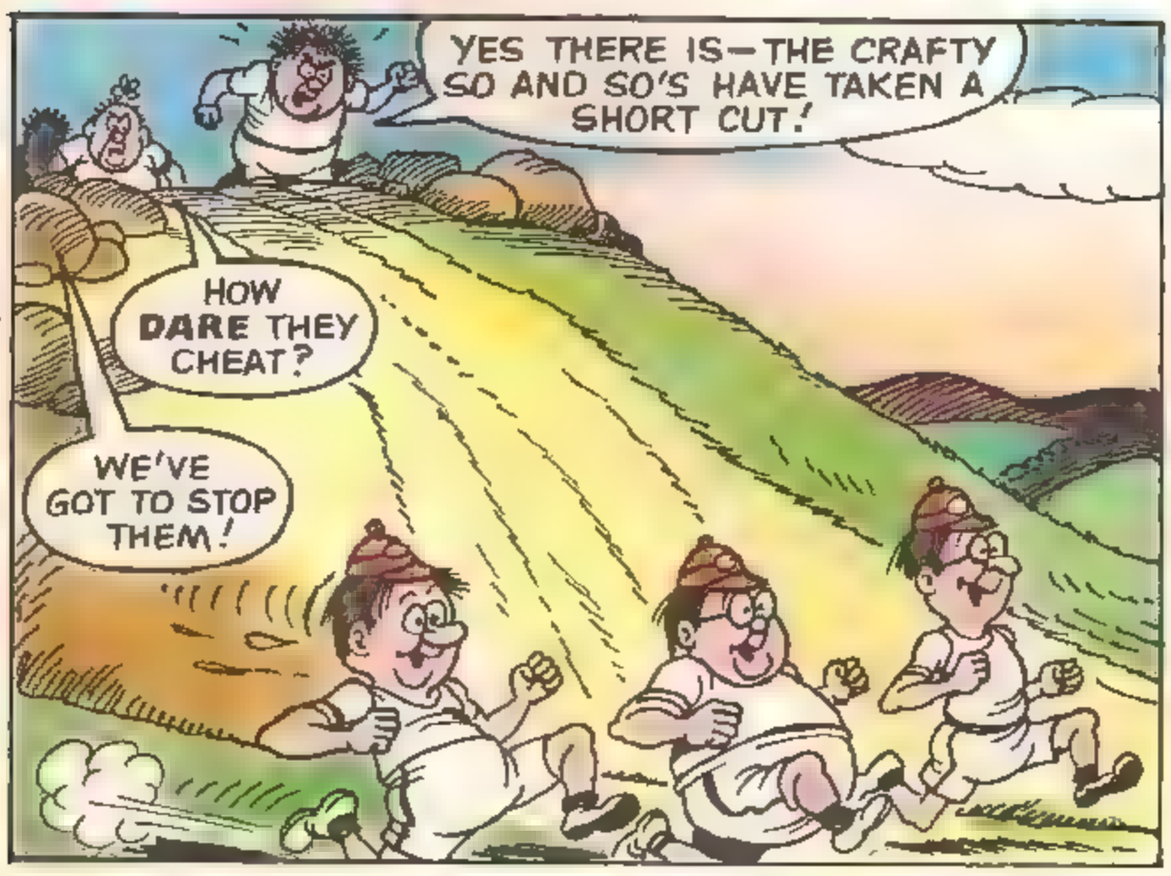
LET'S NOBBLE 'EM BEFORE THEY EVEN START!
YEAH! HEH! HEH!
WHISPER!

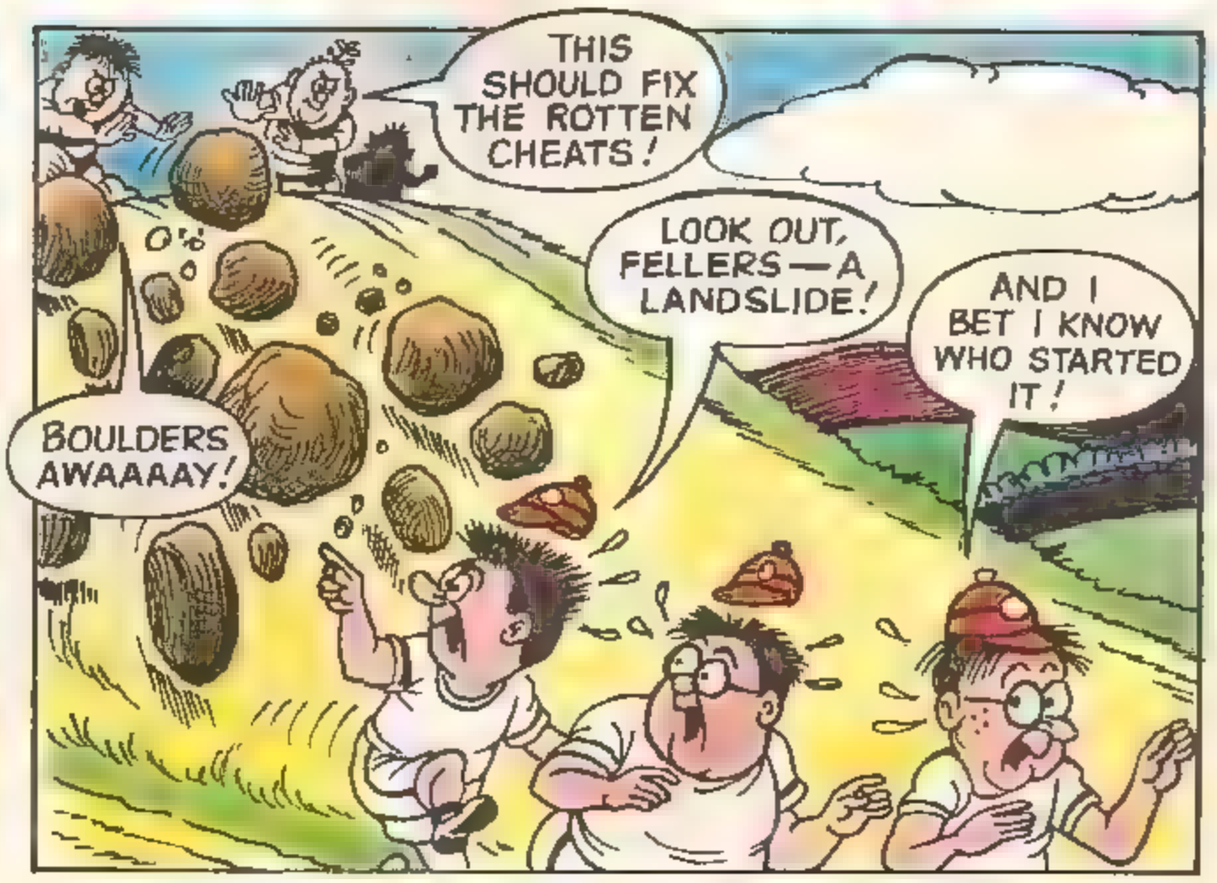

1
RUN A FAIR RACE, LADS— AND MAY THE BEST MAN WIN.
GET A MOVE ON, CEDRIC!

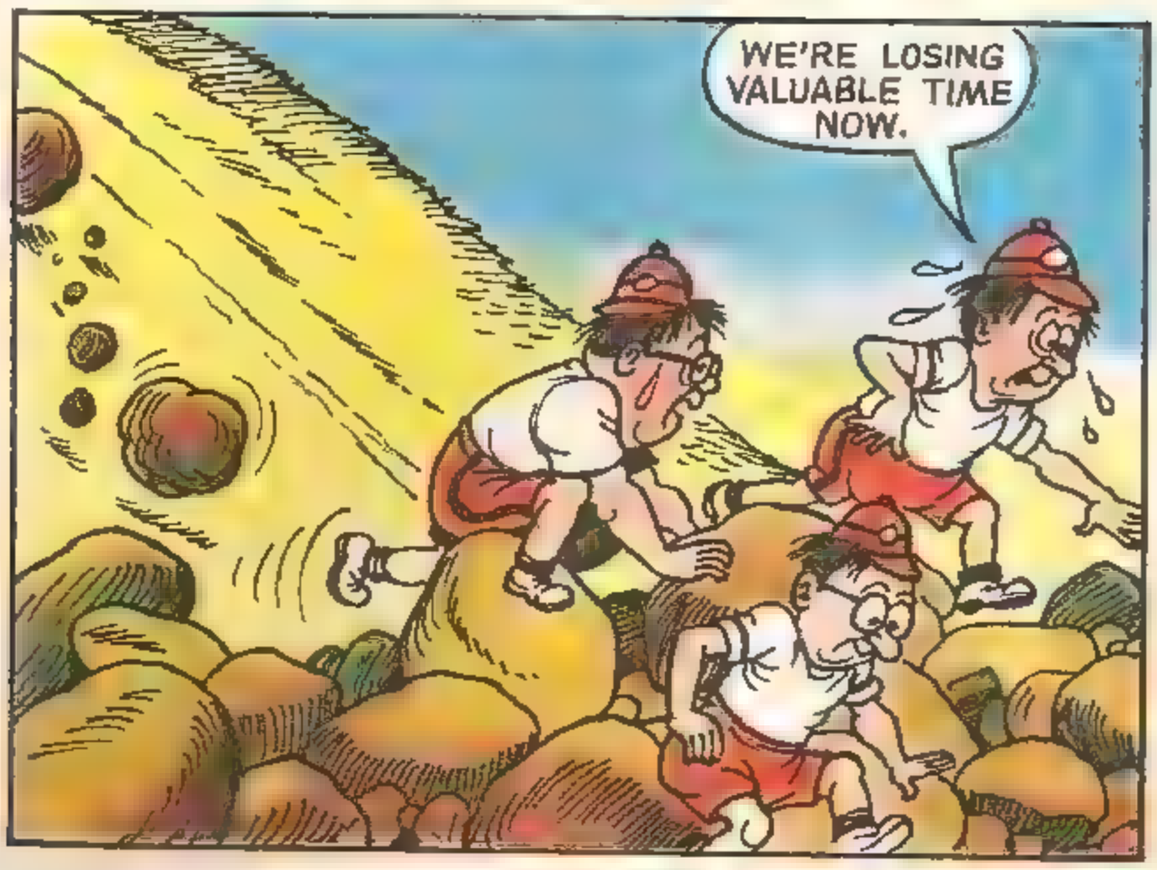

1
TEE! HEE! WE'VE ALMOST WON ALREADY!
BANG!
OUCH! GET OFF MY FOOT!
IT'S NOT YOUR FOOT—IT'S MINE!

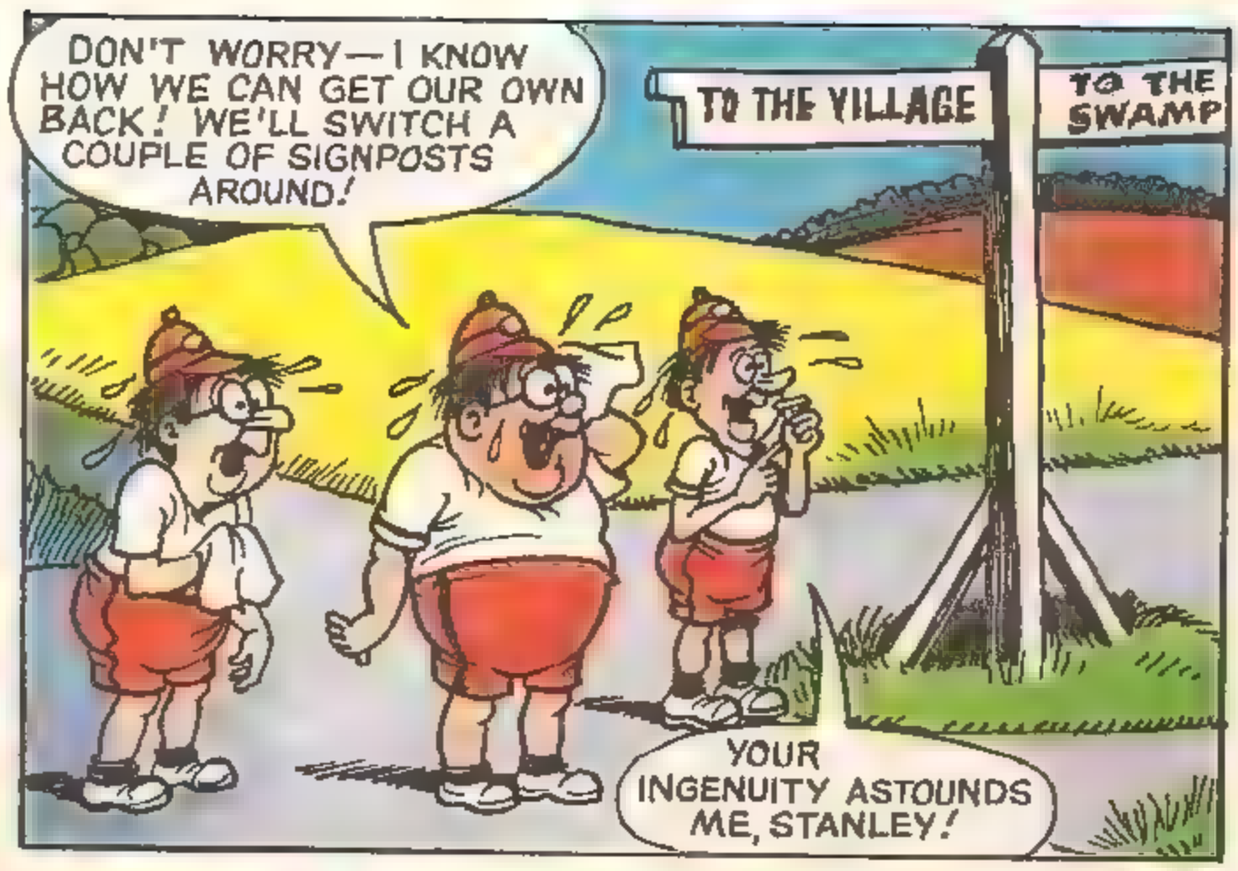
NOT TO WORRY, FELLERS. THANKS TO MY EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL TERRAIN, WE CAN TAKE A SHORT CUT AND BE BACK HERE IN NO TIME!

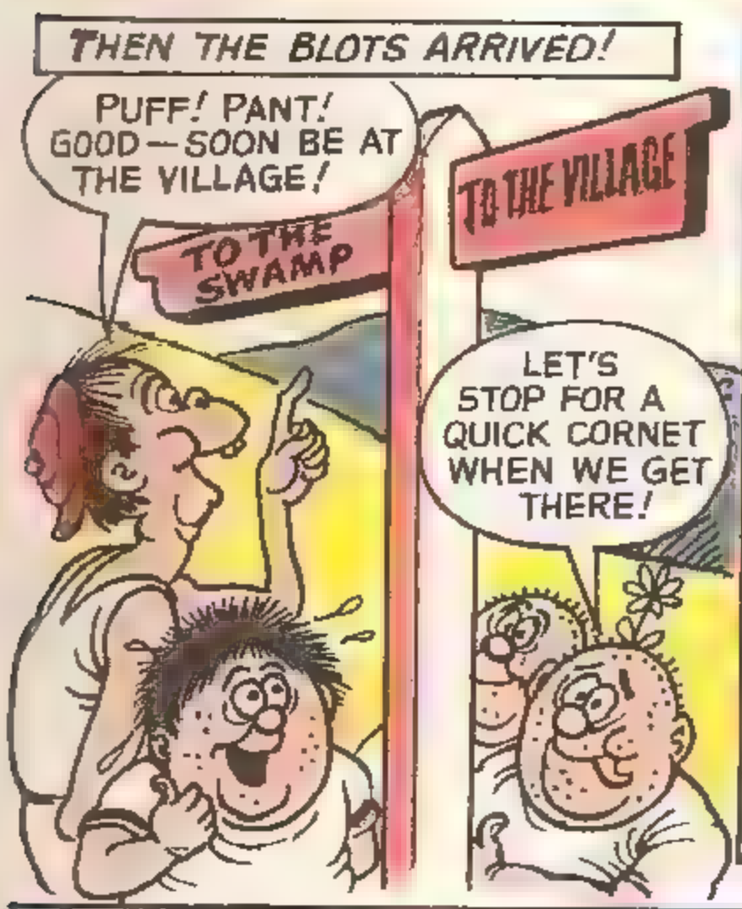

PUFF!
PUFF! PANT!
WE'VE CERTAINLY DELAYED THE OPPOSITION— THERE'S NO SIGN OF 'EM!

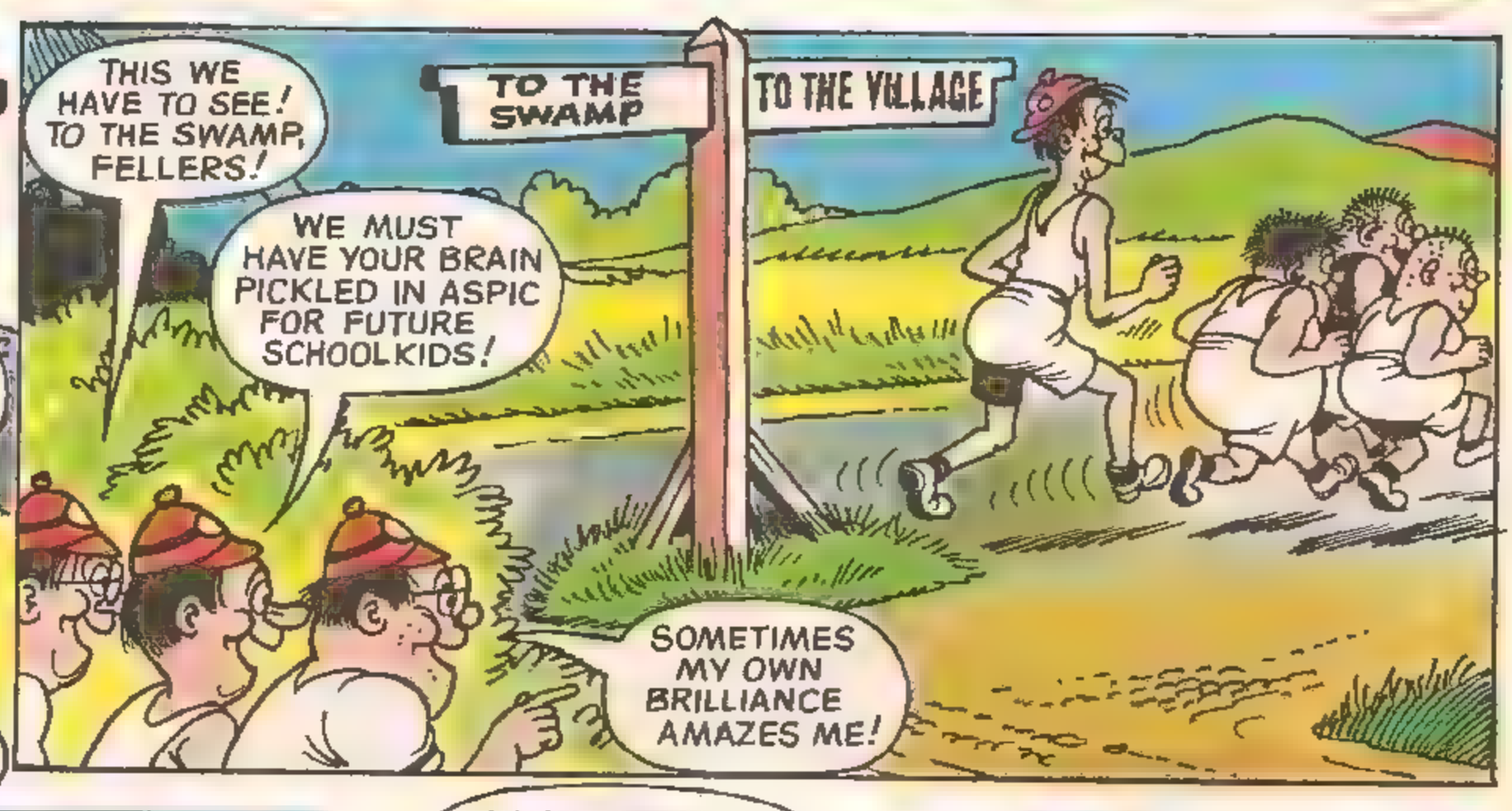

YES THERE IS—THE CRAFTY SO AND SO'S HAVE TAKEN A SHORT CUT!
HOW DARE THEY CHEAT?
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!

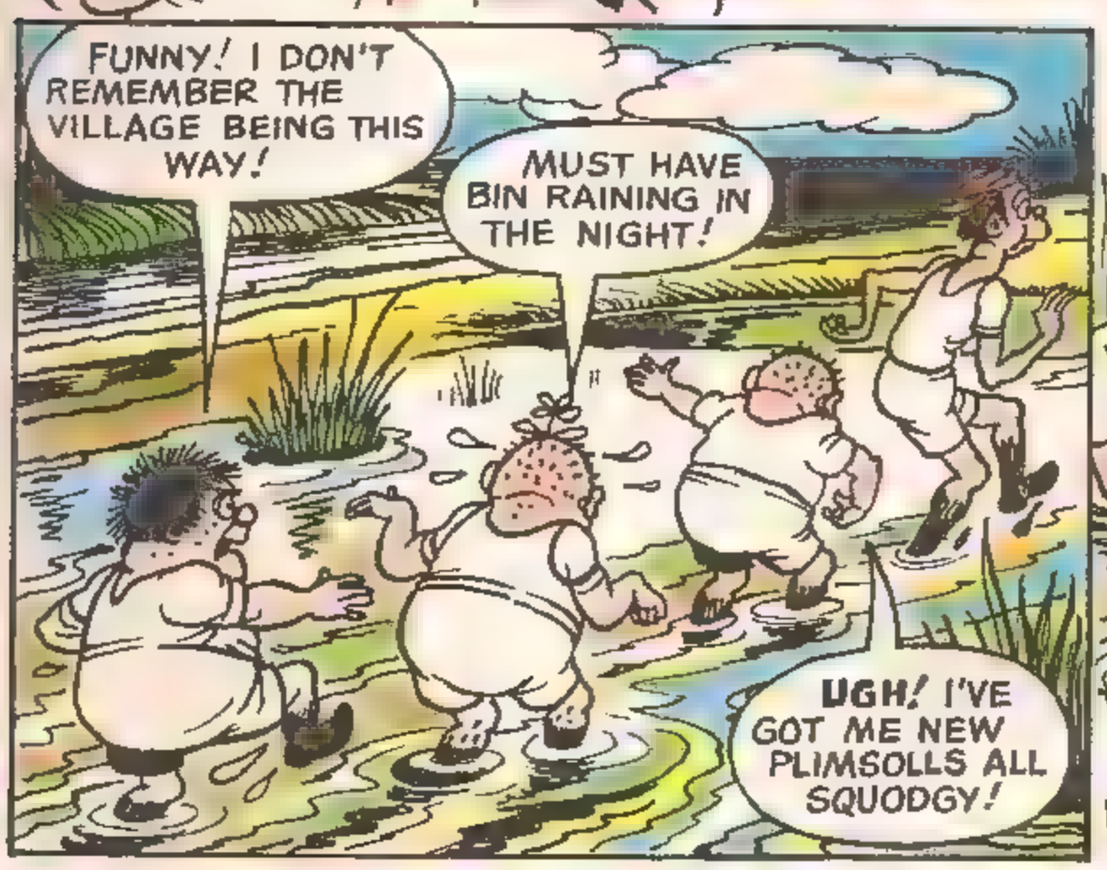

THIS SHOULD FIX THE ROTTEN CHEATS!
LOOK OUT, FELLERS—A LANDSLIDE!
AND I BET I KNOW WHO STARTED IT!
BOULDERS AWAAAAY!


WE'RE LOSING VALUABLE TIME NOW.


DON'T WORRY—I KNOW HOW WE CAN GET OUR OWN BACK! WE'LL SWITCH A COUPLE OF SIGNPOSTS AROUND!
TO THE VILLAGE
TO THE SWAMP
YOUR INGENUITY ASTOUNDS ME, STANLEY!


THEN THE BLOTS ARRIVED!
PUFF! PANT! GOOD—SOON BE AT THE VILLAGE!
TO THE SWAMP
TO THE VILLAGE
LET'S STOP FOR A QUICK CORNET WHEN WE GET THERE!

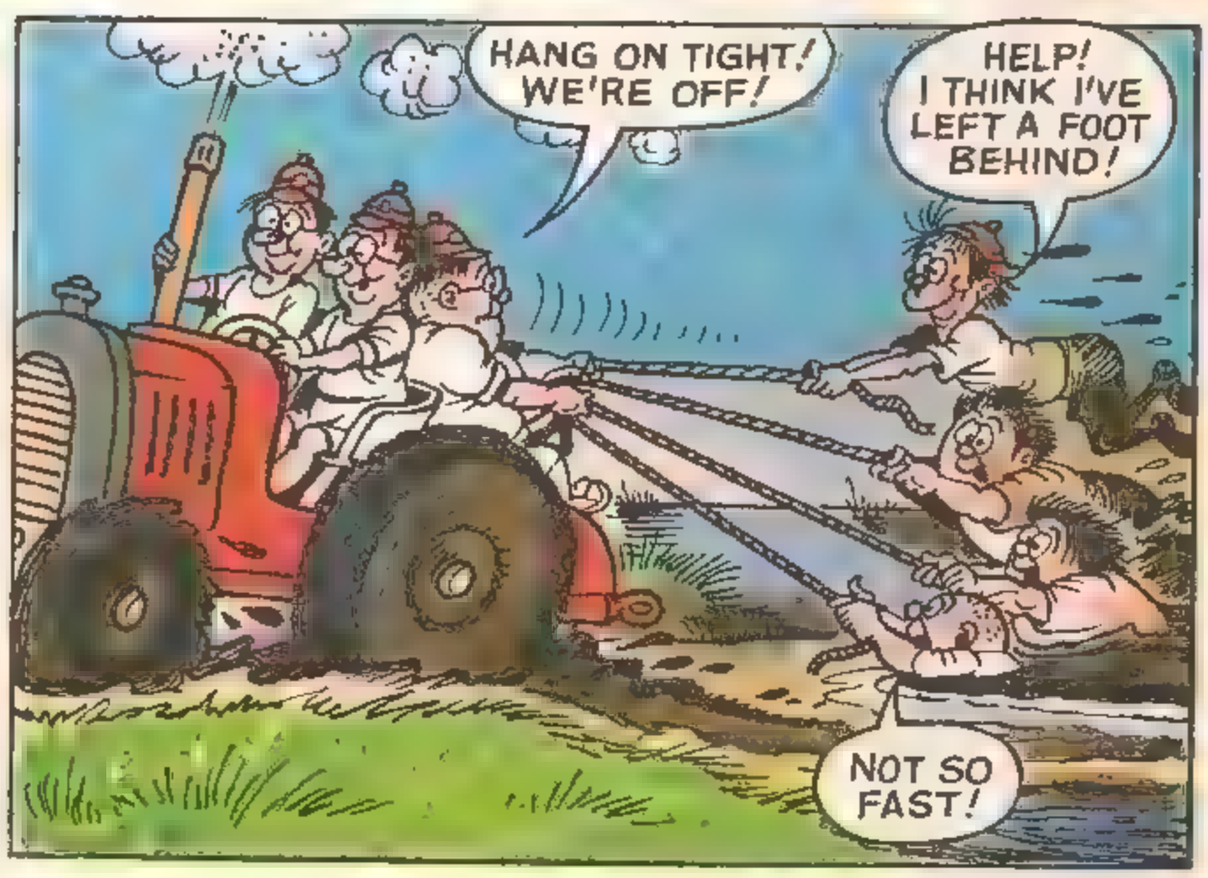

THIS WE HAVE TO SEE! TO THE SWAMP, FELLERS!
TO THE SWAMP
WE MUST HAVE YOUR BRAIN PICKLED IN ASPIC FOR FUTURE SCHOOLKIDS!
TO THE VILLAGE
SOMETIMES MY OWN BRILLIANCE AMAZES ME!

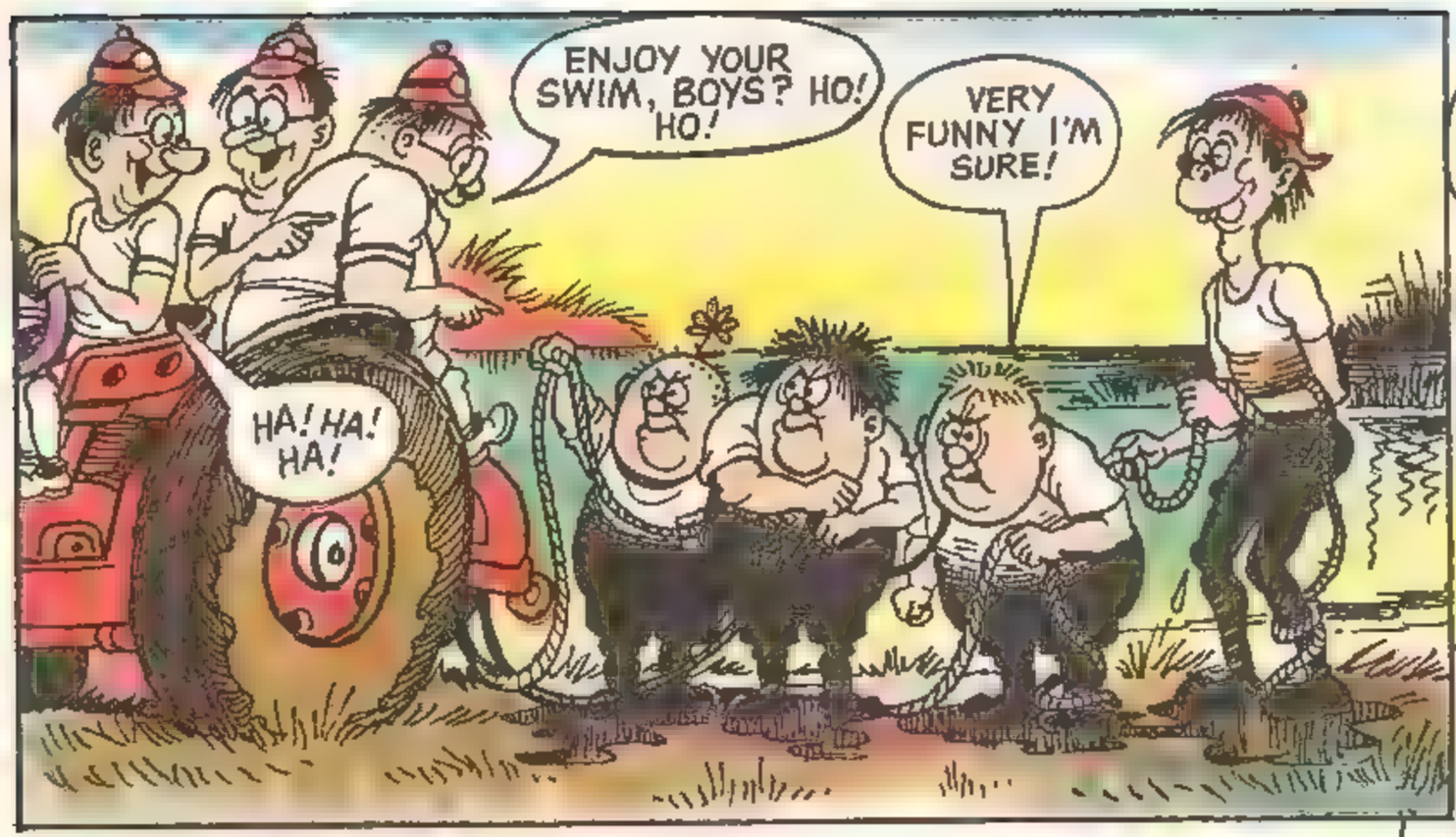

FUNNY! I DON'T REMEMBER THE VILLAGE BEING THIS WAY!
MUST HAVE BIN RAINING IN THE NIGHT!
UGH! I'VE GOT ME NEW PLIMSOLLS ALL SQUODGY!

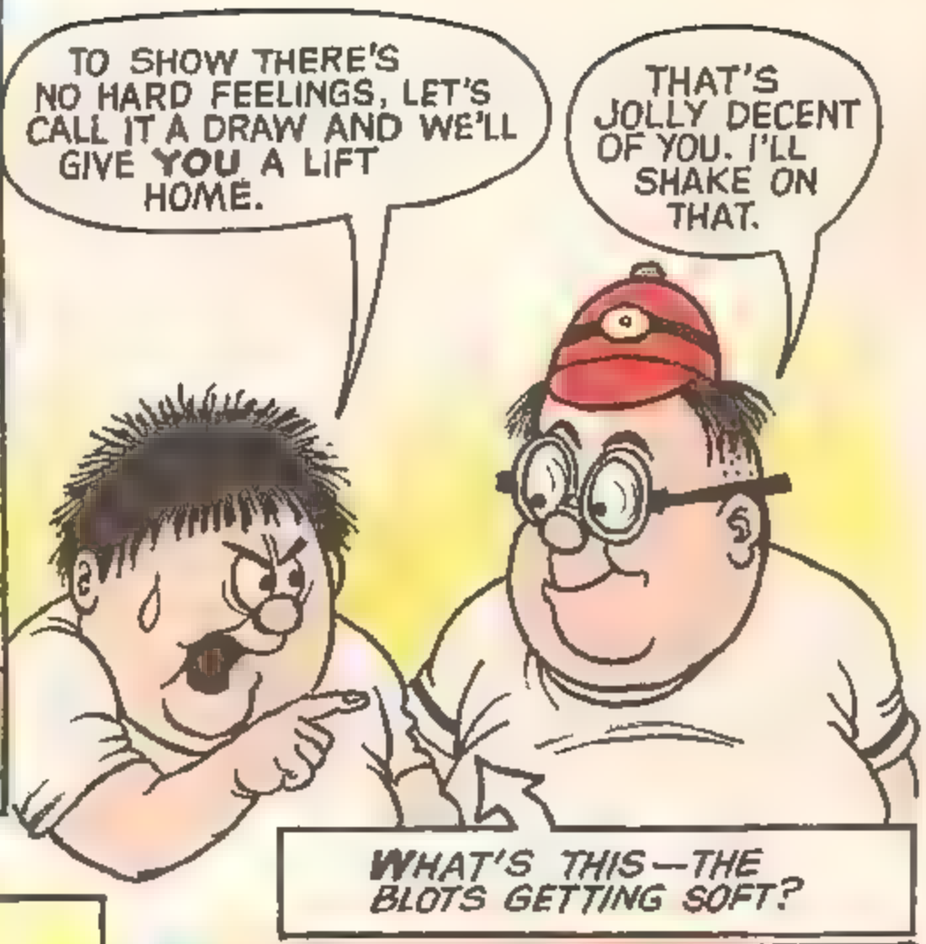
WE'VE BEEN HOAXED AGAIN! THIS IS A BLOOMIN' SWAMP!
HELP! GET ME OUT! I'M HEADING FOR A MUDDY GRAVE!
UGH! IT'S 'ORRIBLE!

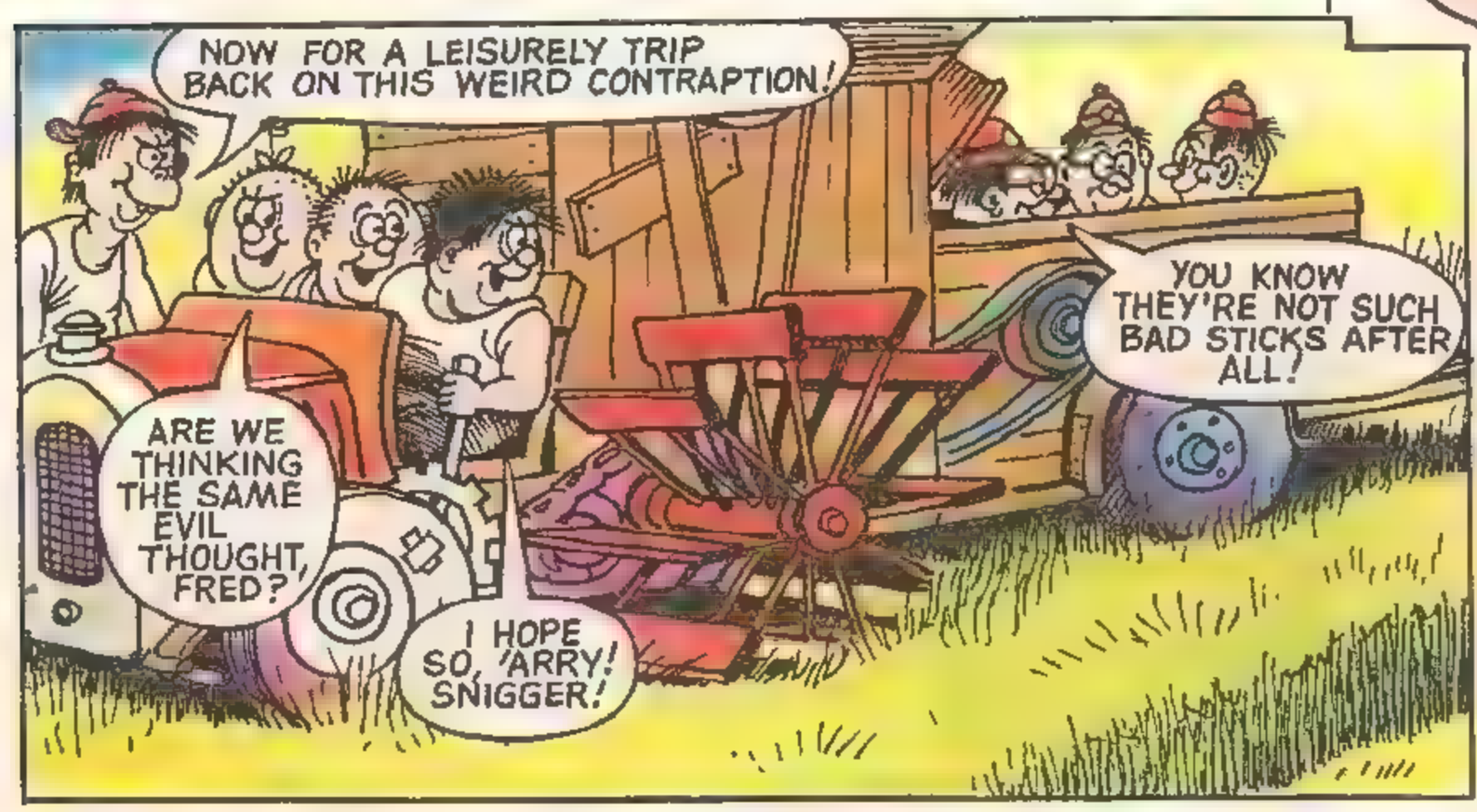
HANG ON, LITTLE BLOTS! EVEN WE WON'T LET YOU DISAPPEAR WITHOUT TRACE!

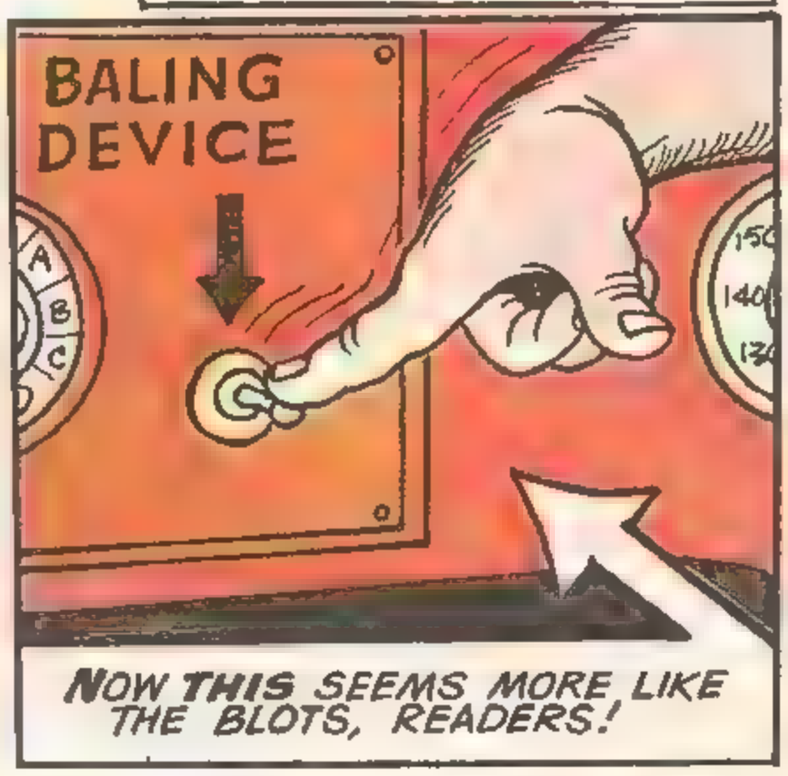
TIE THE ROPES ROUND YOUR WAISTS AND WE'LL PULL YOU OUT!
I CAN'T EVEN SEE MY WAIST ANY MORE! HELP!
WONDER WHAT SPEED THESE THINGS DO, CLARENCE?

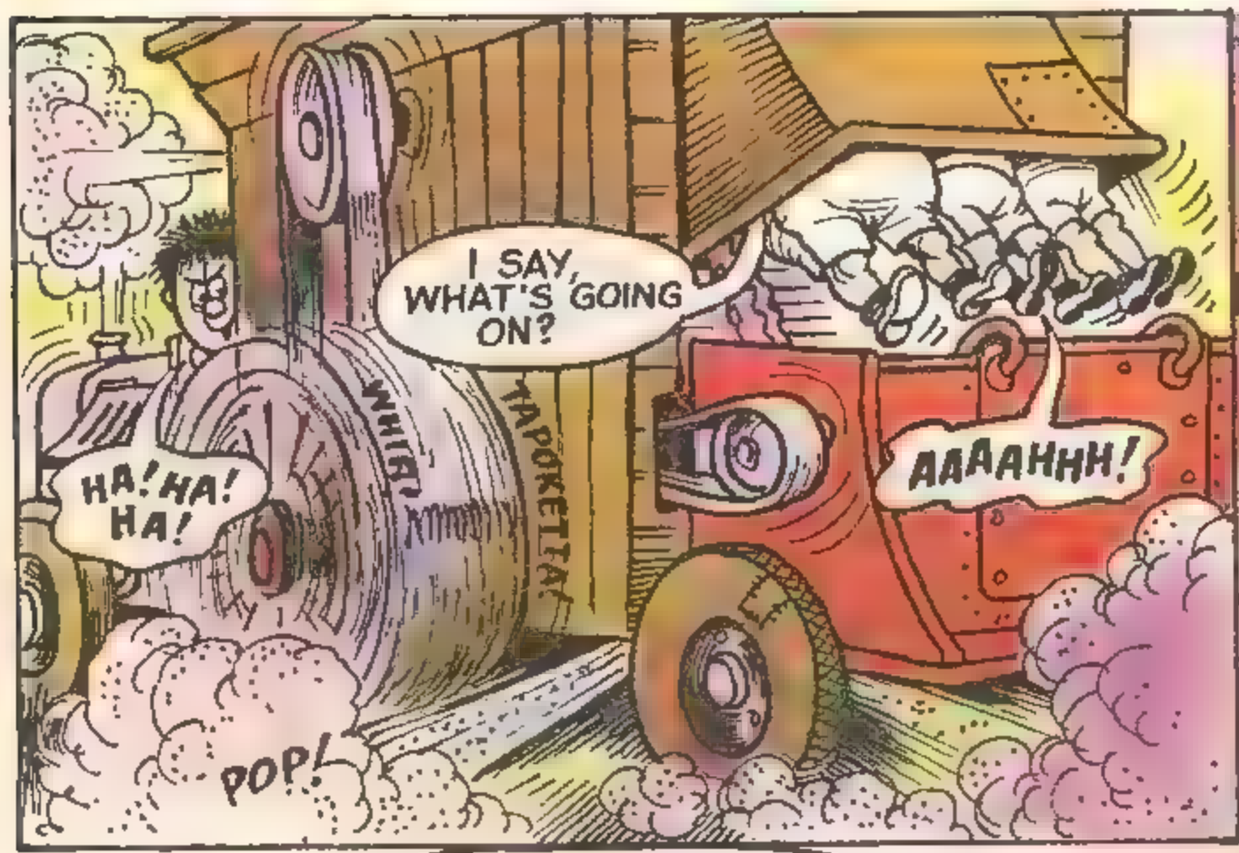

HANG ON TIGHT! WE'RE OFF!
HELP! I THINK I'VE LEFT A FOOT BEHIND!
NOT SO FAST!

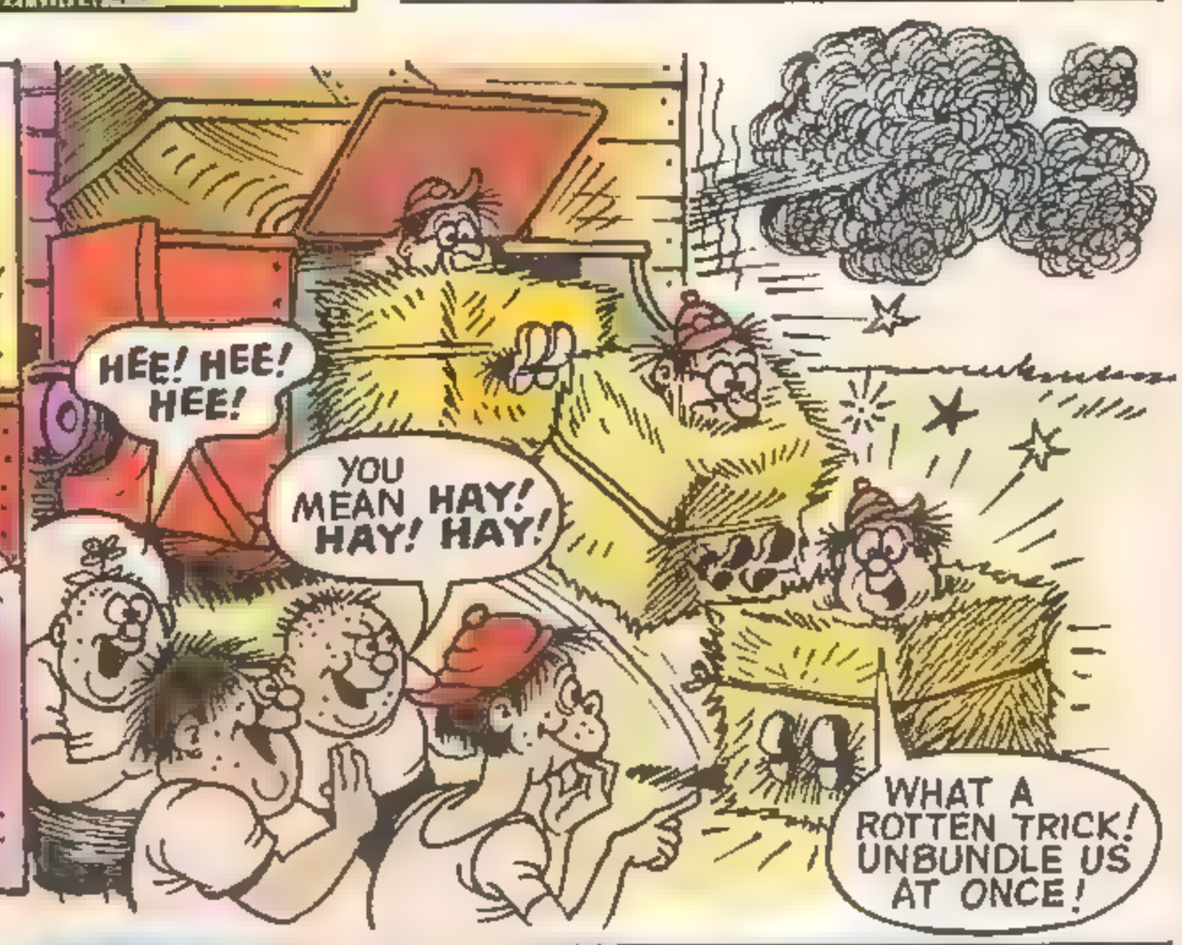

ENJOY YOUR SWIM, BOYS? HO! HO!
VERY FUNNY I'M SURE!
HA! HA! HA!

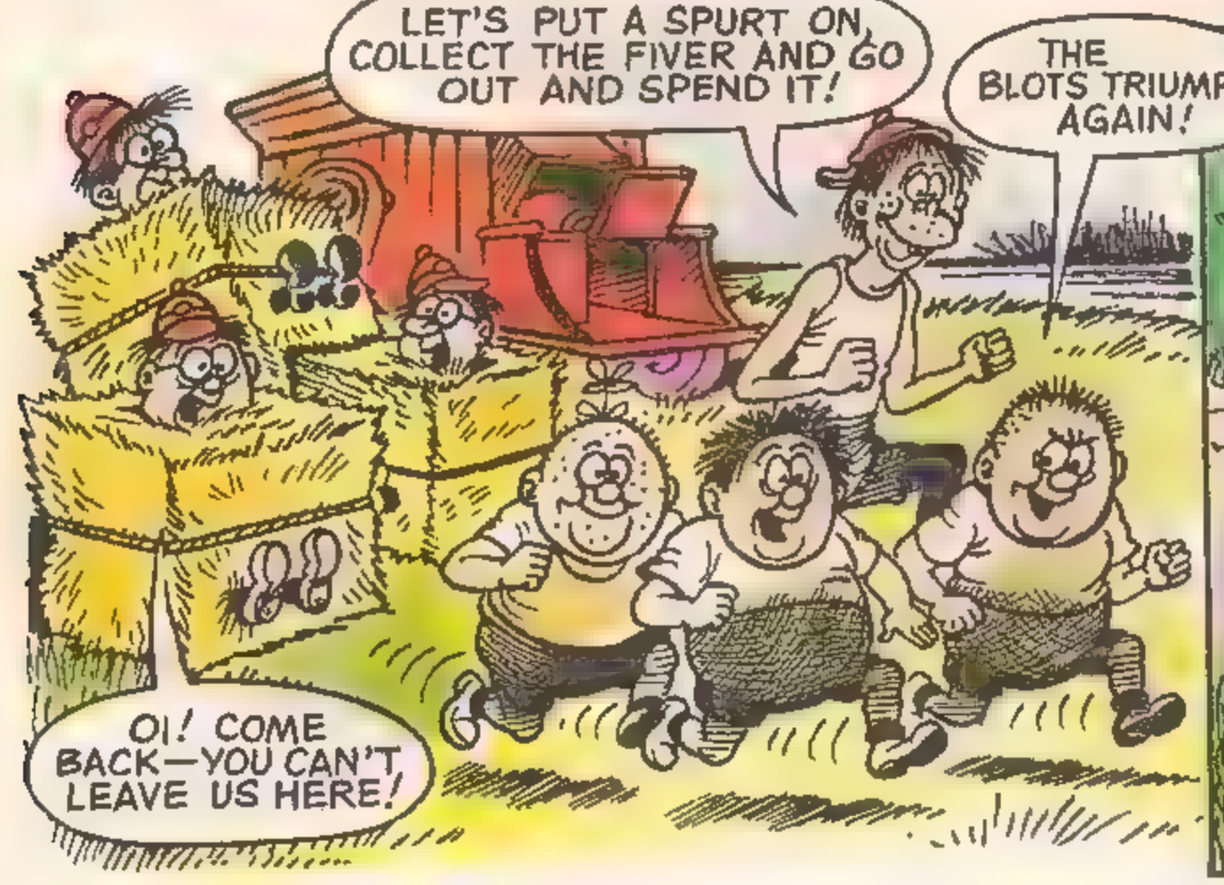

TO SHOW THERE'S NO HARD FEELINGS, LET'S CALL IT A DRAW AND WE'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT HOME.
THAT'S JOLLY DECENT OF YOU. I'LL SHAKE ON THAT.
WHAT'S THIS—THE BLOTS GETTING SOFT?

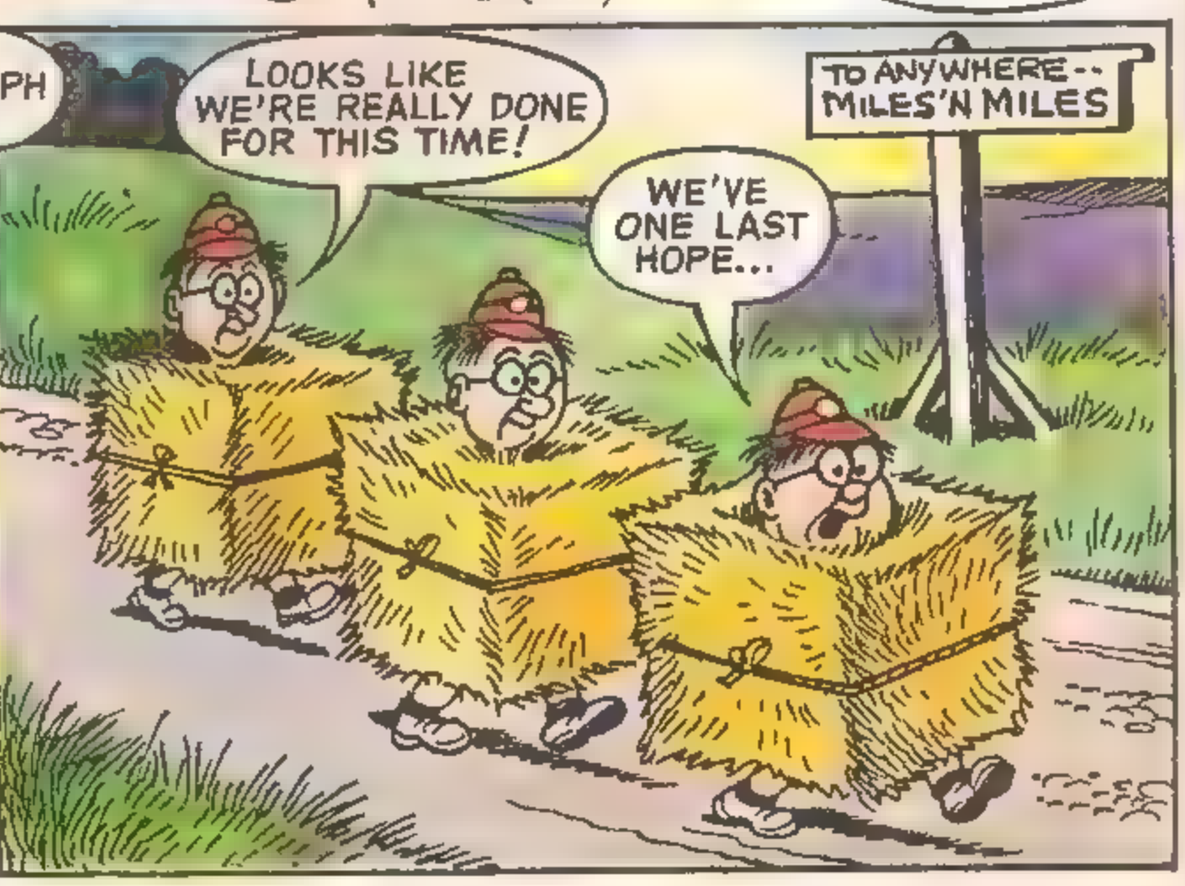

NOW FOR A LEISURELY TRIP BACK ON THIS WEIRD CONTRAPTION!
YOU KNOW THEY'RE NOT SUCH BAD STICKS AFTER ALL!
ARE WE THINKING THE SAME EVIL THOUGHT, FRED?
I HOPE SO, 'ARRY! SNIGGER!


BALING DEVICE
NOW THIS SEEMS MORE LIKE THE BLOTS, READERS!


I SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
HA! HA! HA!
WHIRR!
TAPOKETTAT
AAAAHHH!
POP!


HEE! HEE! HEE!
YOU MEAN HAY! HAY! HAY!
WHAT A ROTTEN TRICK! UNBUNDLE US AT ONCE!

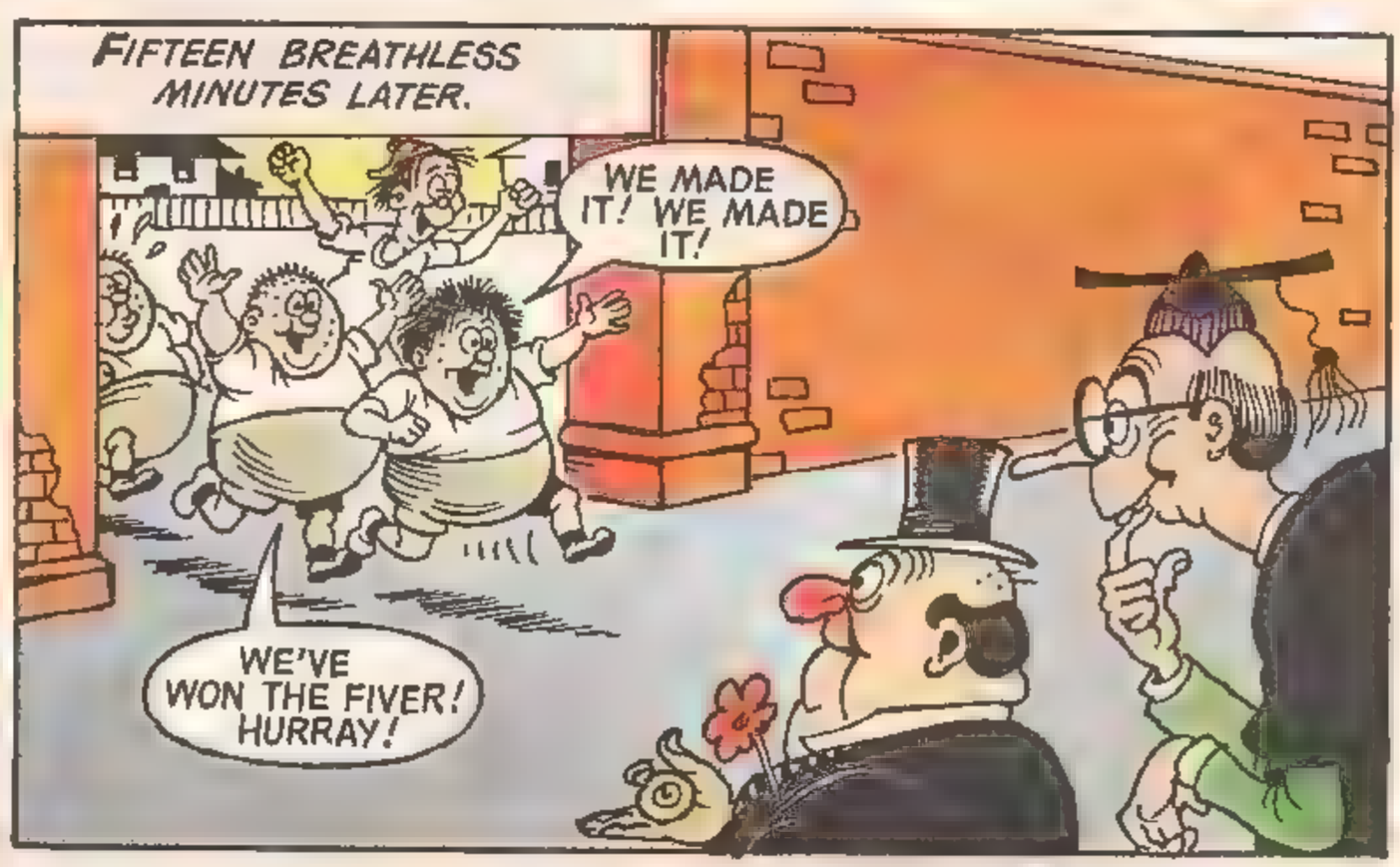

LET'S PUT A SPURT ON, COLLECT THE FIVER AND GO OUT AND SPEND IT!
THE BLOTS TRIUMPH AGAIN!
OI! COME BACK—YOU CAN'T LEAVE US HERE!

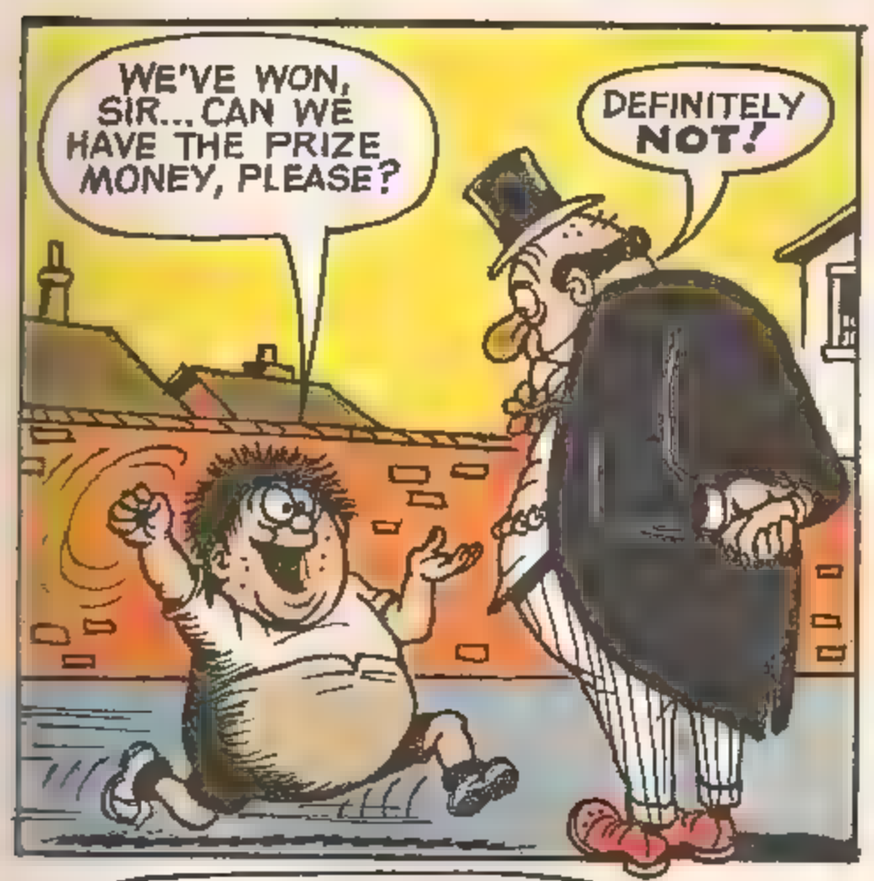

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE REALLY DONE FOR THIS TIME!
TO ANYWHERE-- MILES'N MILES
WE'VE ONE LAST HOPE...

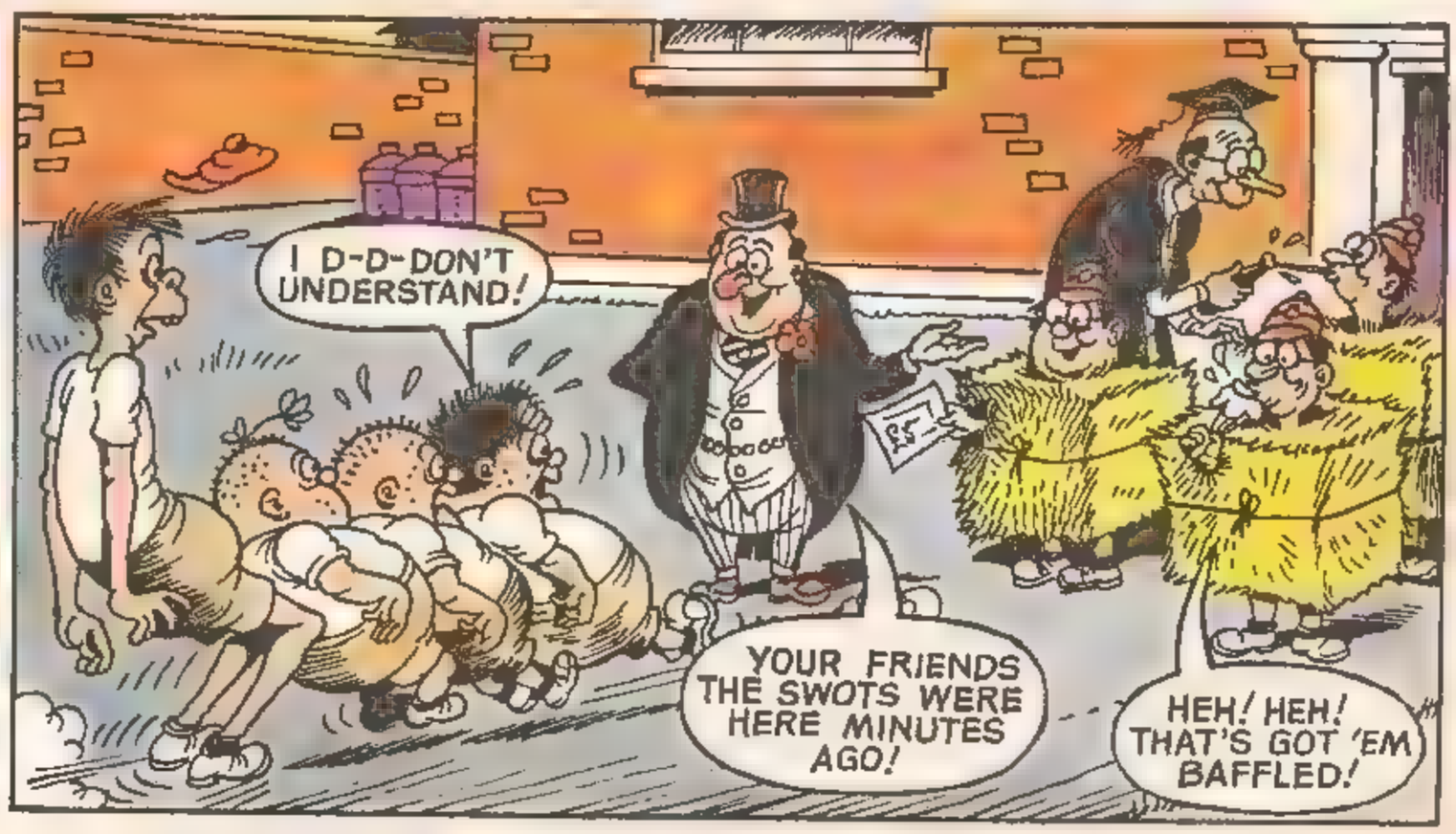
MEANWHILE... BACK AT SCHOOL
THEY'VE BEEN GONE A LONG TIME... YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT, DO YOU?
NOTHING EVER HAPPENS TO MY PUPILS, SIR!
HE MUST BE JOKING!

ALMOST THERE!
YEAH! WON'T THOSE STOOPID SWOTS BE FURIOUS!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED TO BALE THEM OUT! HA! HA!

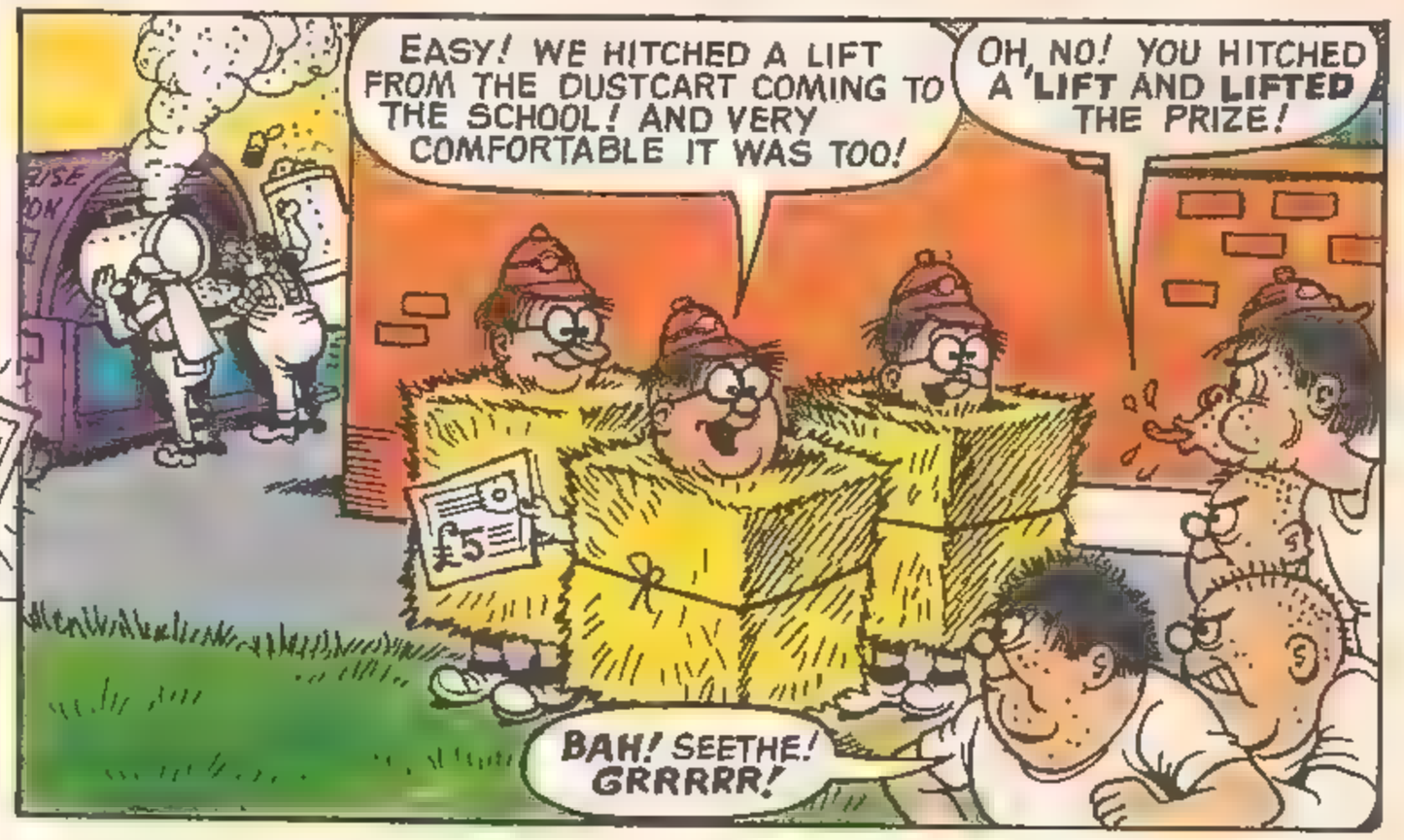
I HOPE YOUR PLAN WORKS!
DON'T THEY ALWAYS?
NO!


FIFTEEN BREATHLESS MINUTES LATER.
WE MADE IT! WE MADE IT!
WE'VE WON THE FIVER! HURRAY!

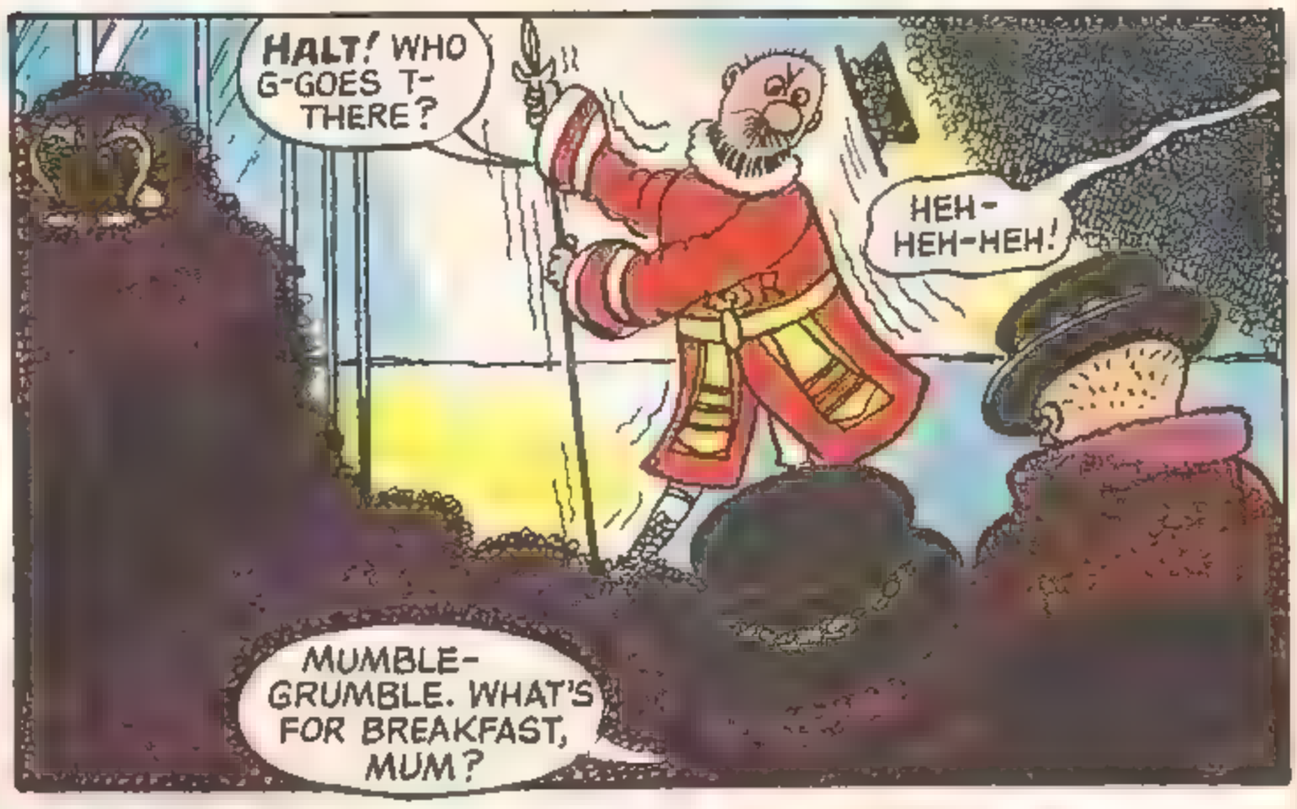

WE'VE WON, SIR... CAN WE HAVE THE PRIZE MONEY, PLEASE?
DEFINITELY NOT!

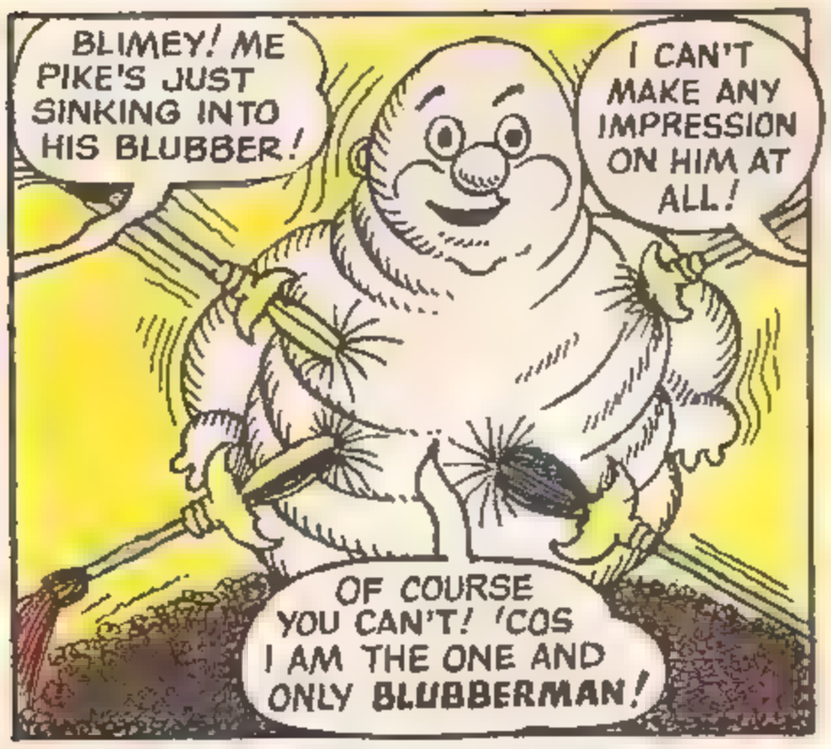

I D-D-DON'T UNDERSTAND!
YOUR FRIENDS THE SWOTS WERE HERE MINUTES AGO!
HEH! HEH! THAT'S GOT 'EM BAFFLED!

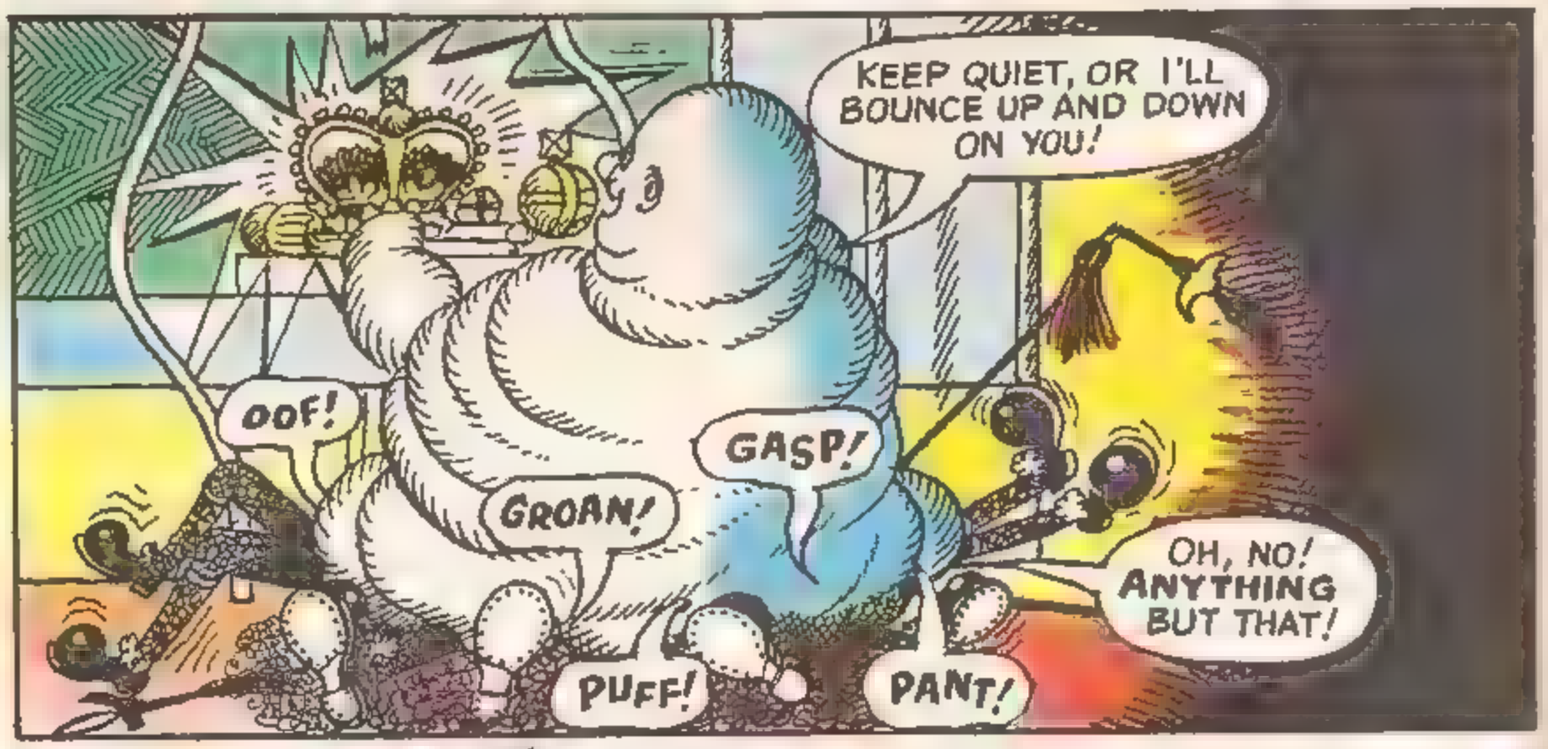
YES—WE WON THE PRIZE MONEY AND NOW WE'RE OFF TO SPEND IT!
HOW? HOW DID YOU GET BACK WHEN WE TRUSSED YOU UP IN BALES OF HAY?

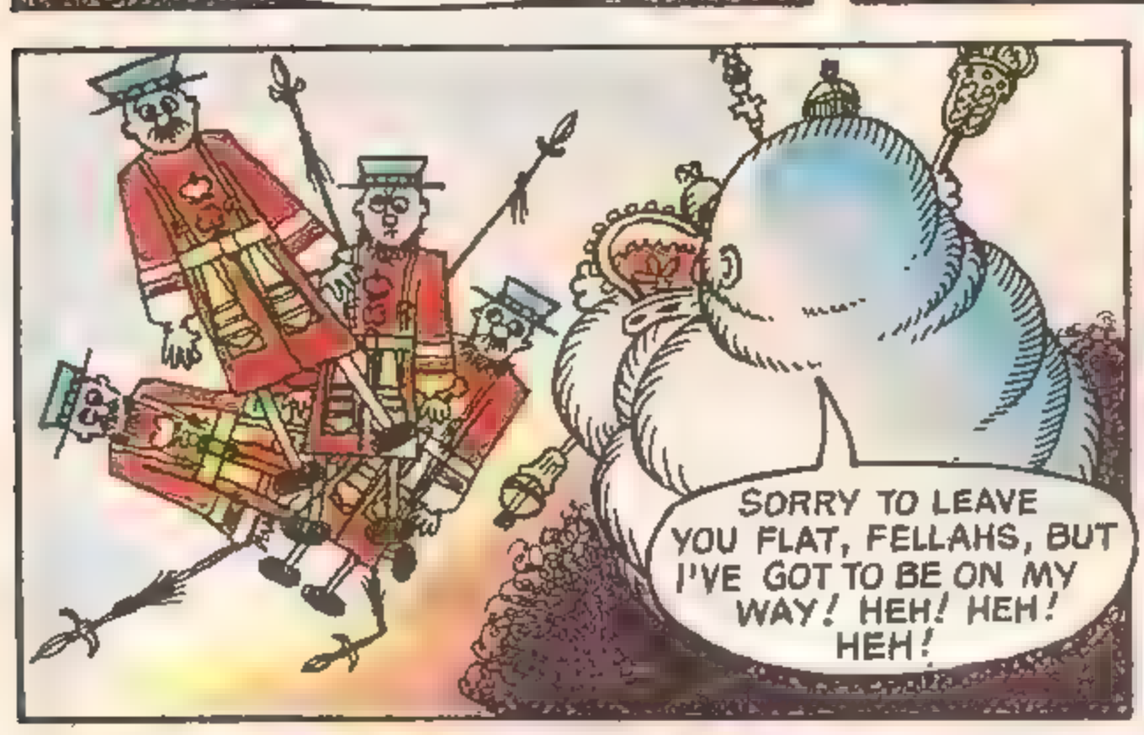

EASY! WE HITCHED A LIFT FROM THE DUSTCART COMING TO THE SCHOOL! AND VERY COMFORTABLE IT WAS TOO!
OH, NO! YOU HITCHED A LIFT AND LIFTED THE PRIZE!
BAH! SEETHE! GRRRRR!

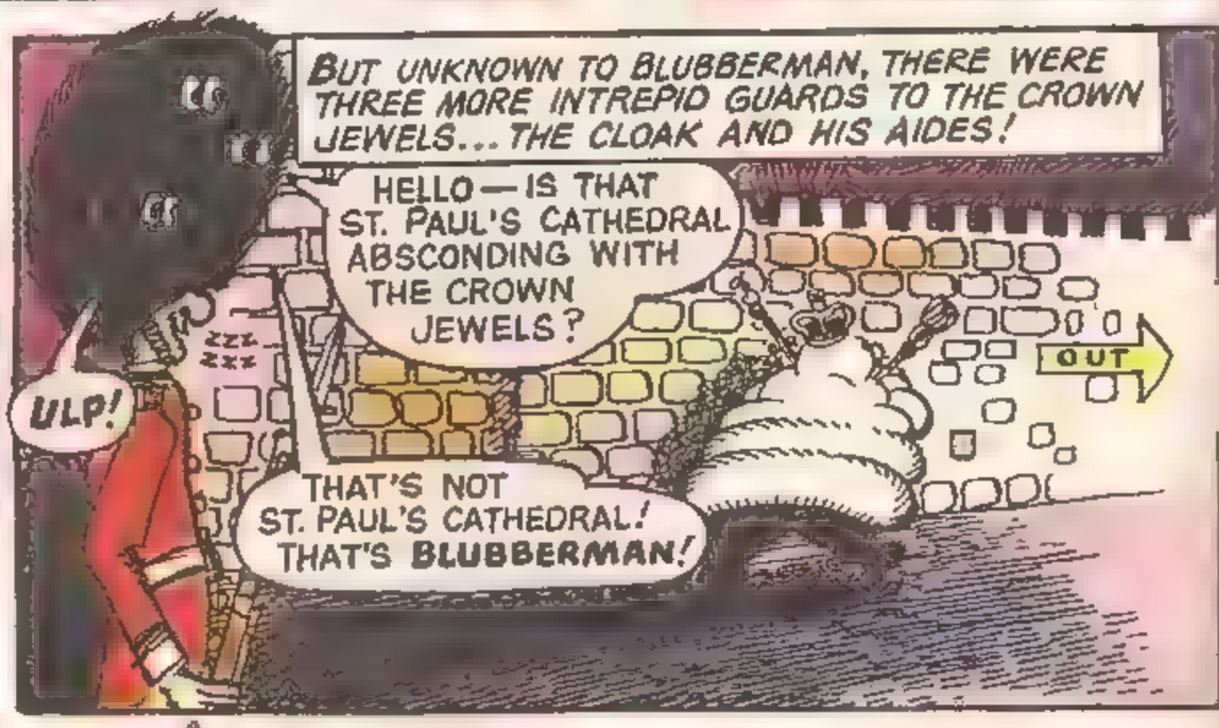
THE CLOAK & BLUBBERMAN

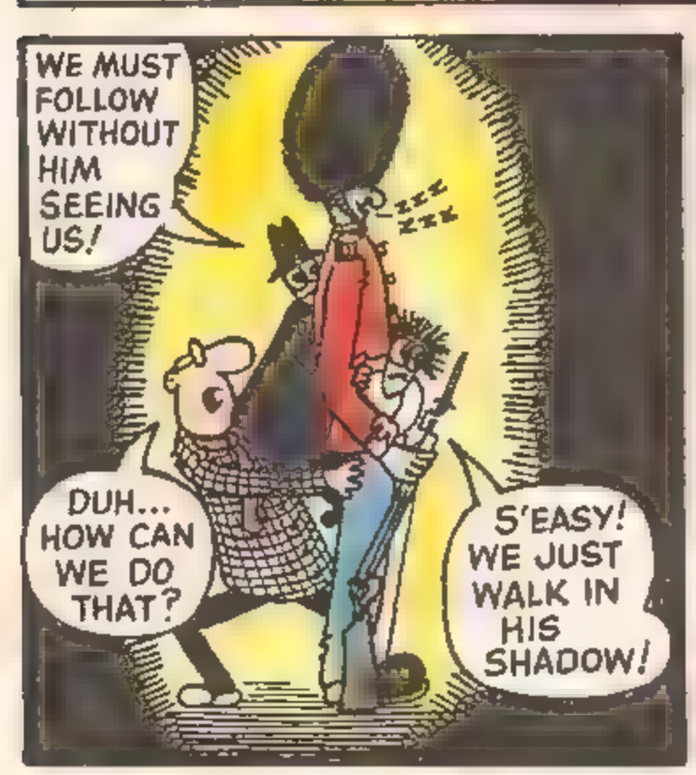


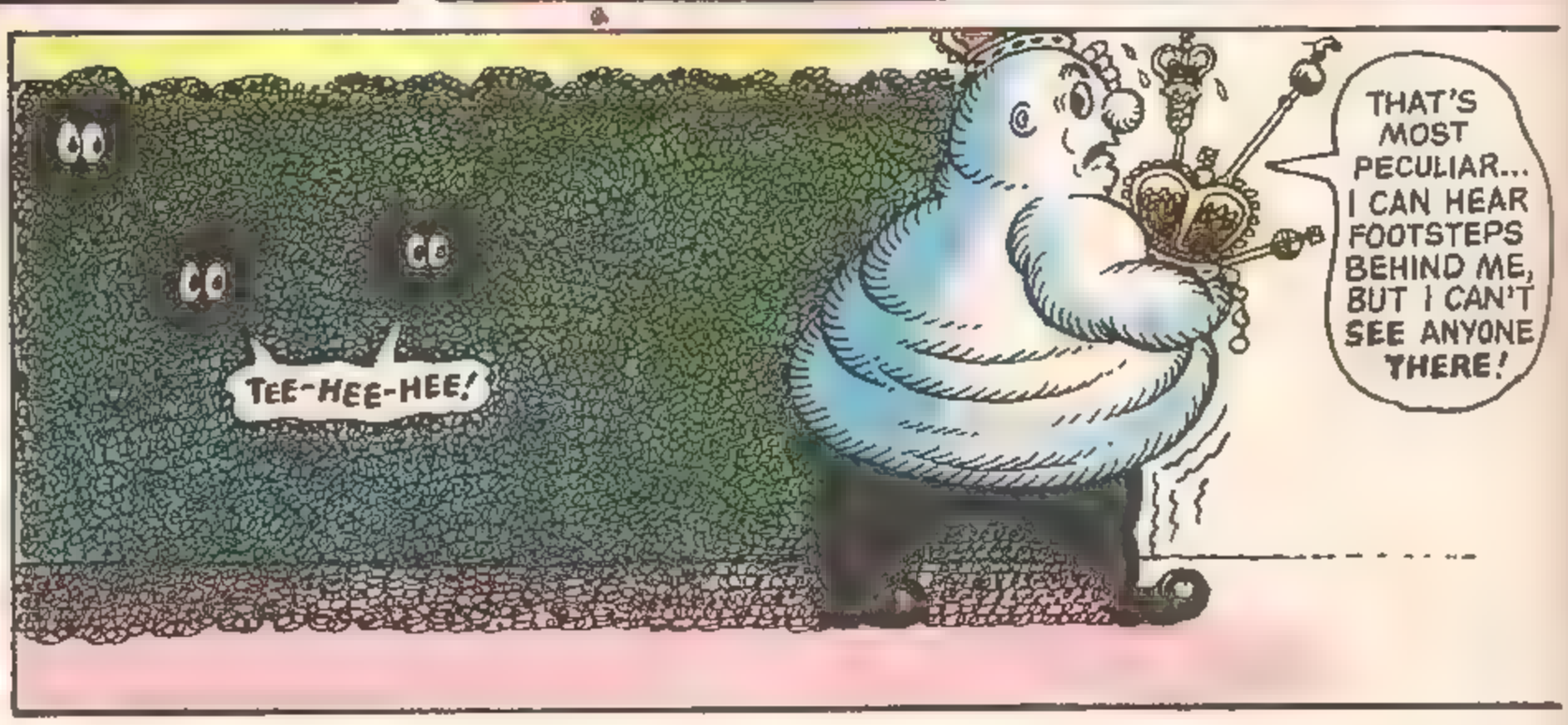




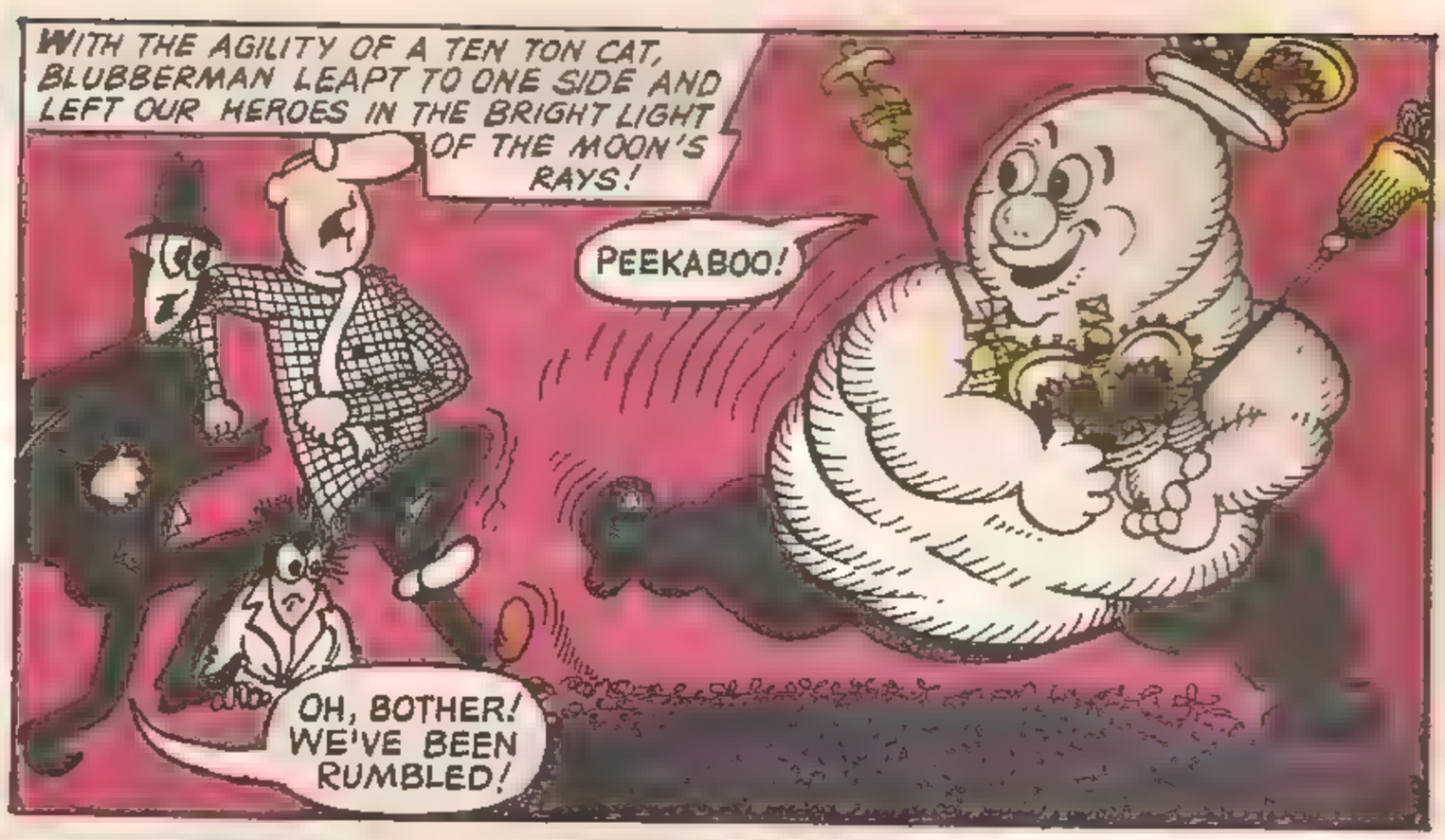


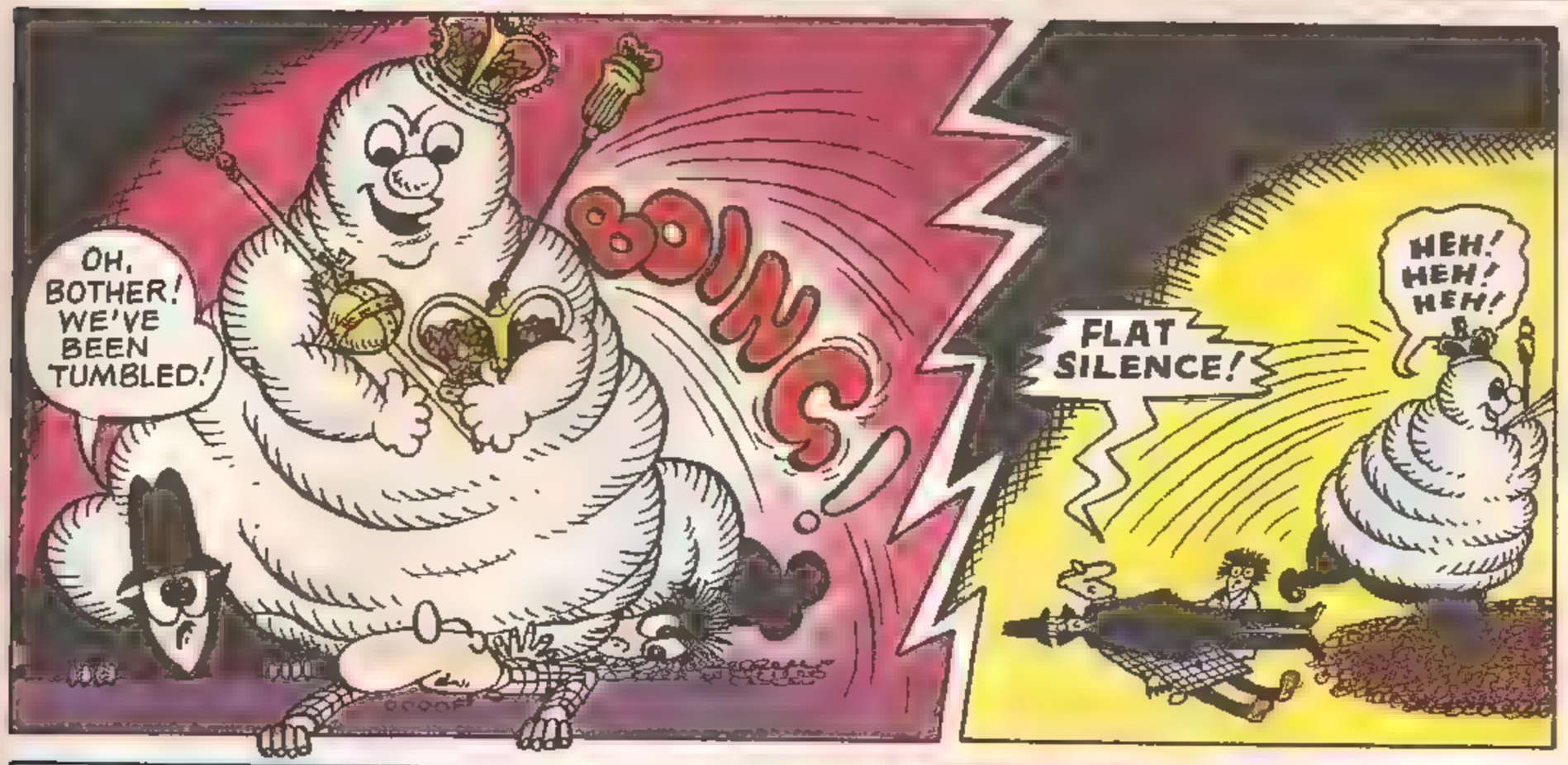




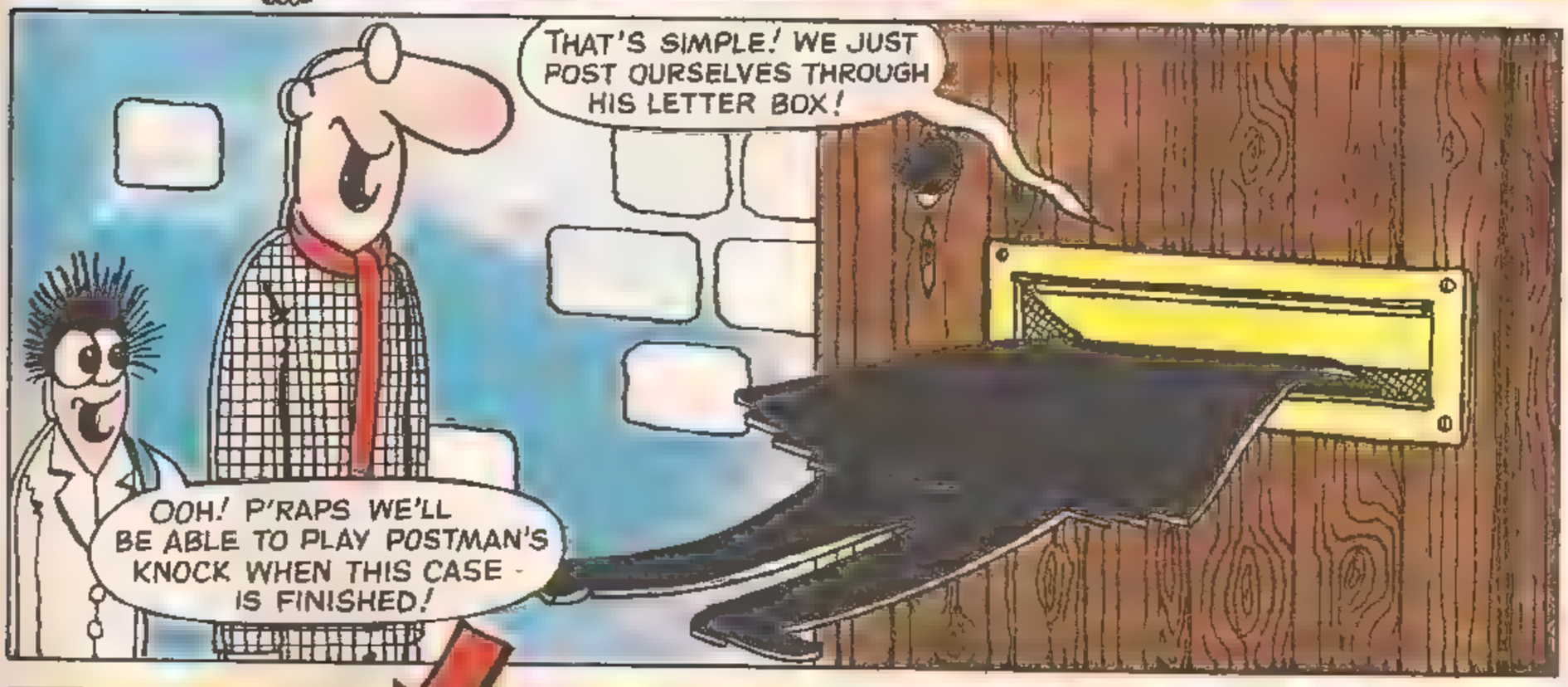


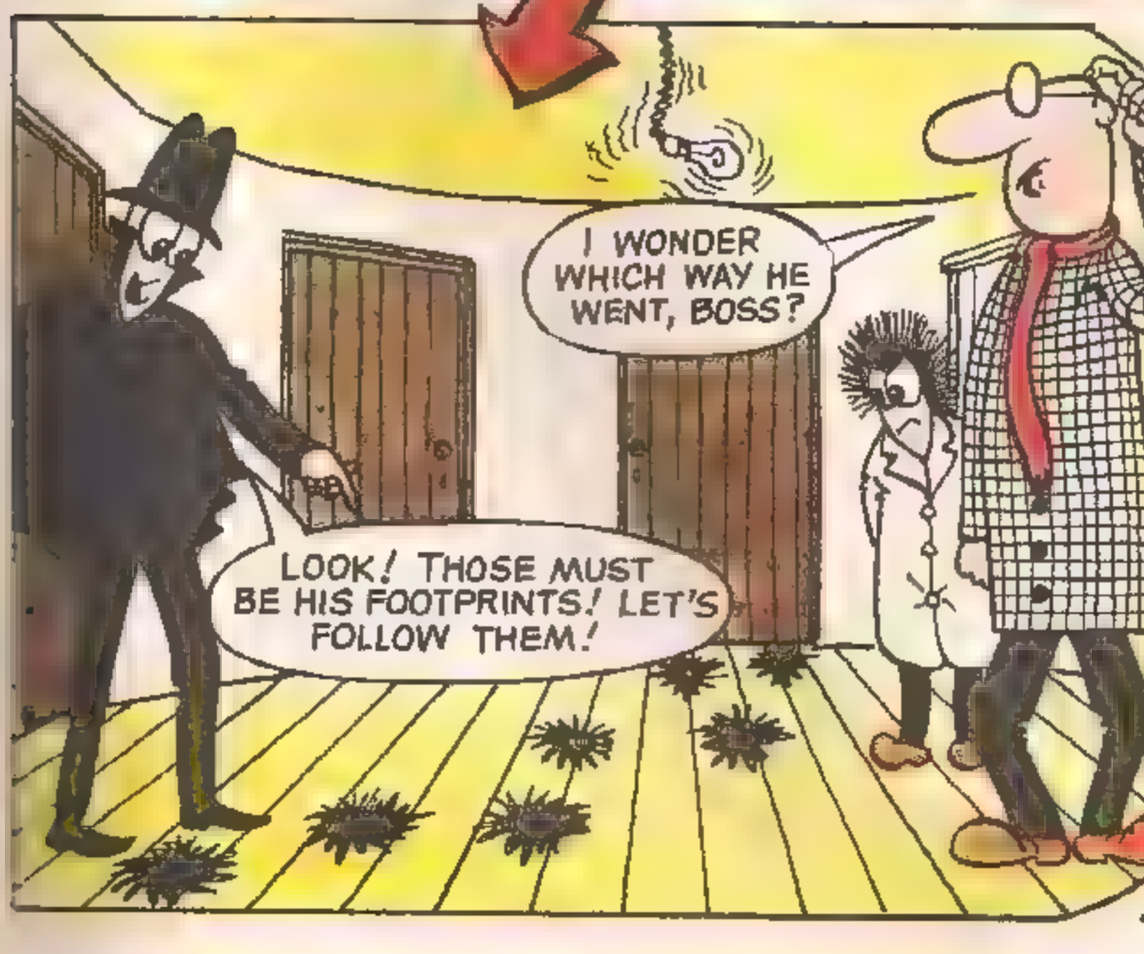
FURTIVE IDEA!

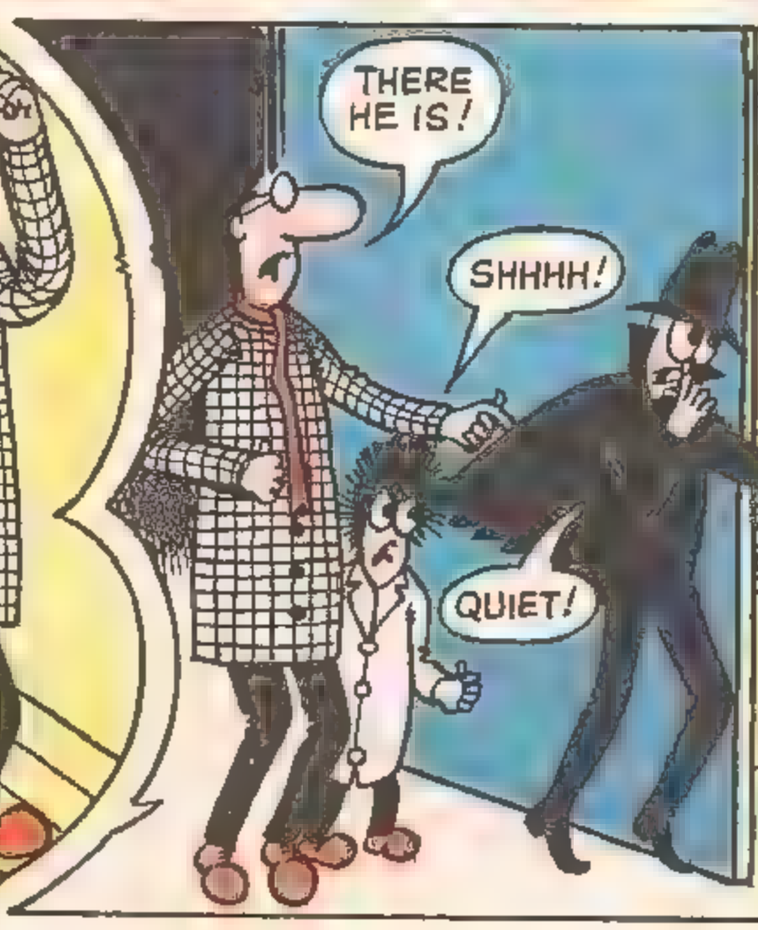

WITH THE AGILITY OF A TEN TON CAT, BLUBBERMAN LEAPT TO ONE SIDE AND LEFT OUR HEROES IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF THE MOON'S RAYS!
PEEKABOO!
OH, BOTHER! WE'VE BEEN RUMBLED!


OH, BOTHER! WE'VE BEEN TUMBLED!
BOING!
FLAT SILENCE!
HEH! HEH! HEH!

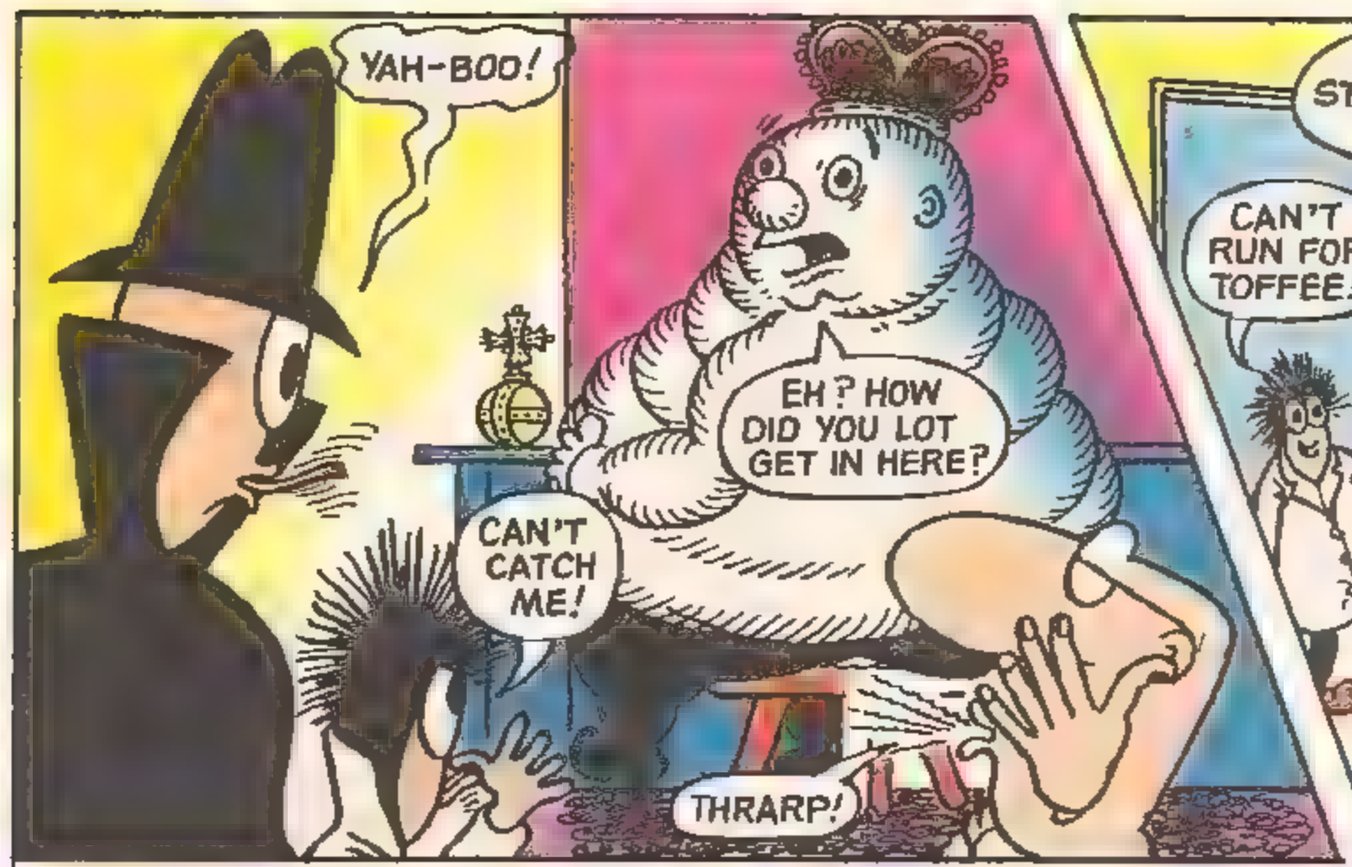
QUICK! FOLLOW HIM INTO THAT HOUSE!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THROUGH THAT DOOR IF HE CLOSES IT BEHIND HIM, BOSS?

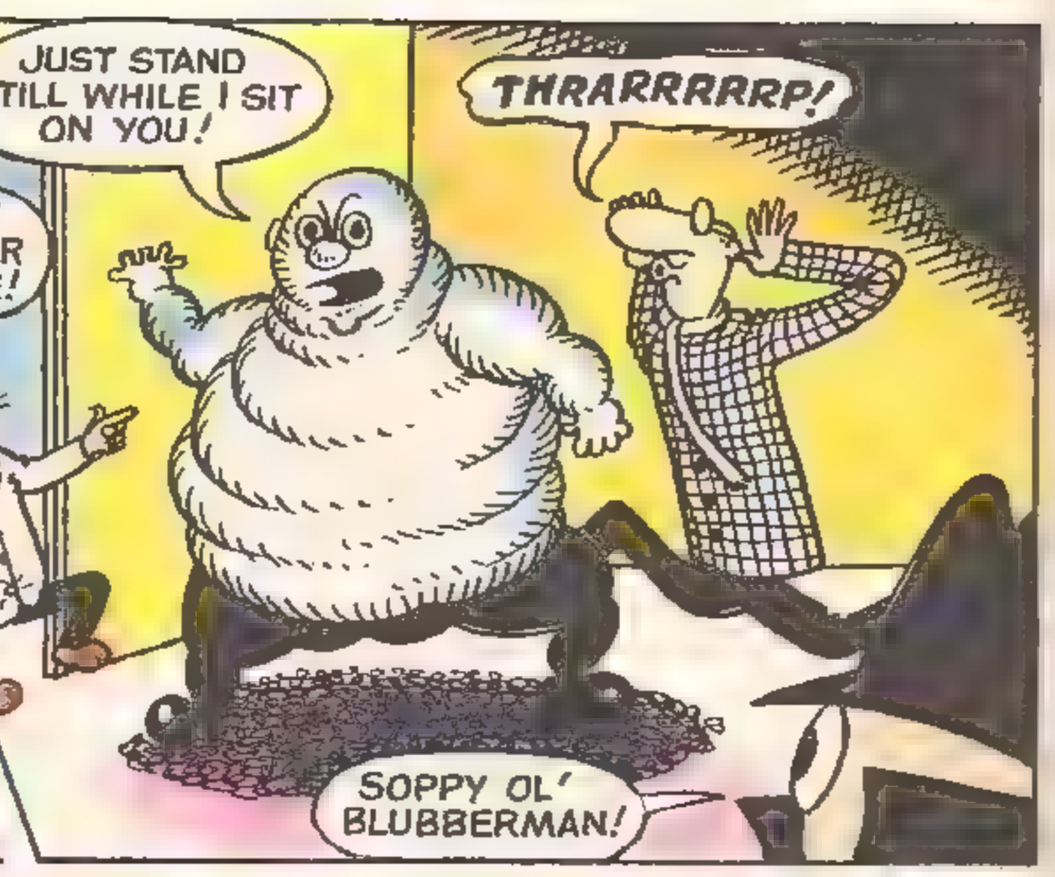

THAT'S SIMPLE! WE JUST POST OURSELVES THROUGH HIS LETTER BOX!
OOH! P'RAPS WE'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY POSTMAN'S KNOCK WHEN THIS CASE IS FINISHED!


I WONDER WHICH WAY HE WENT, BOSS?
LOOK! THOSE MUST BE HIS FOOTPRINTS! LET'S FOLLOW THEM!

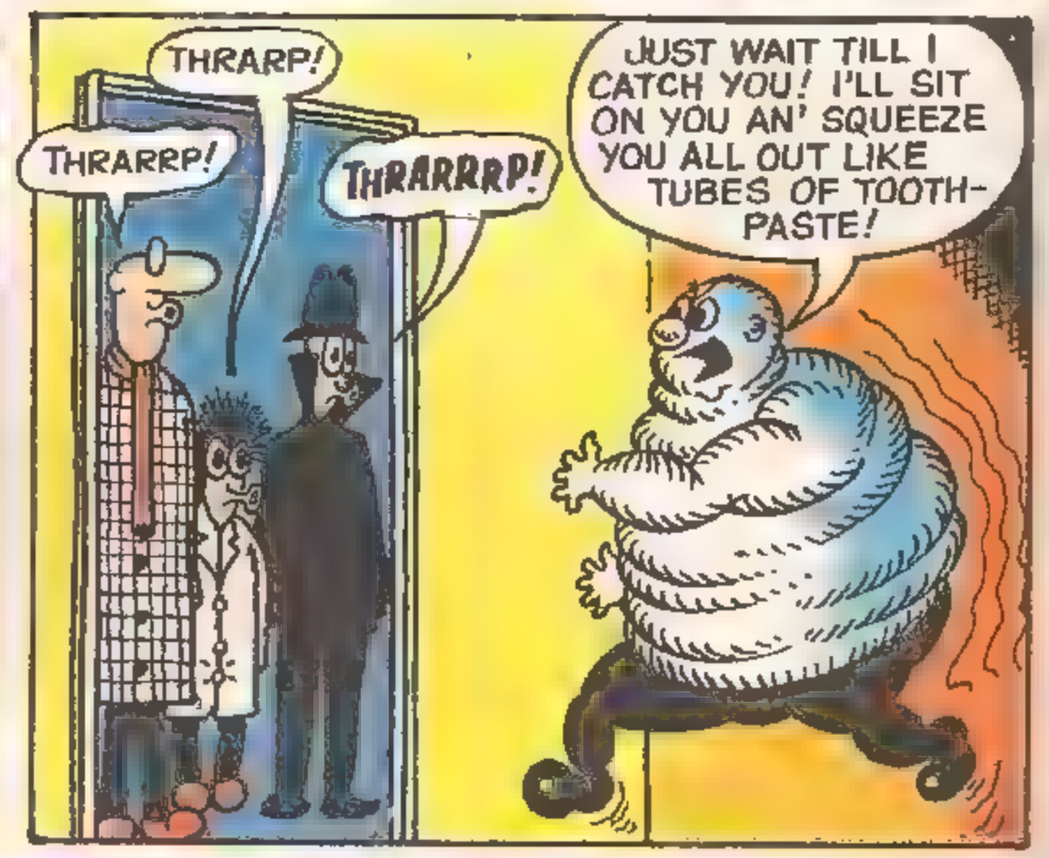

THERE HE IS!
SHHHH!
QUIET!

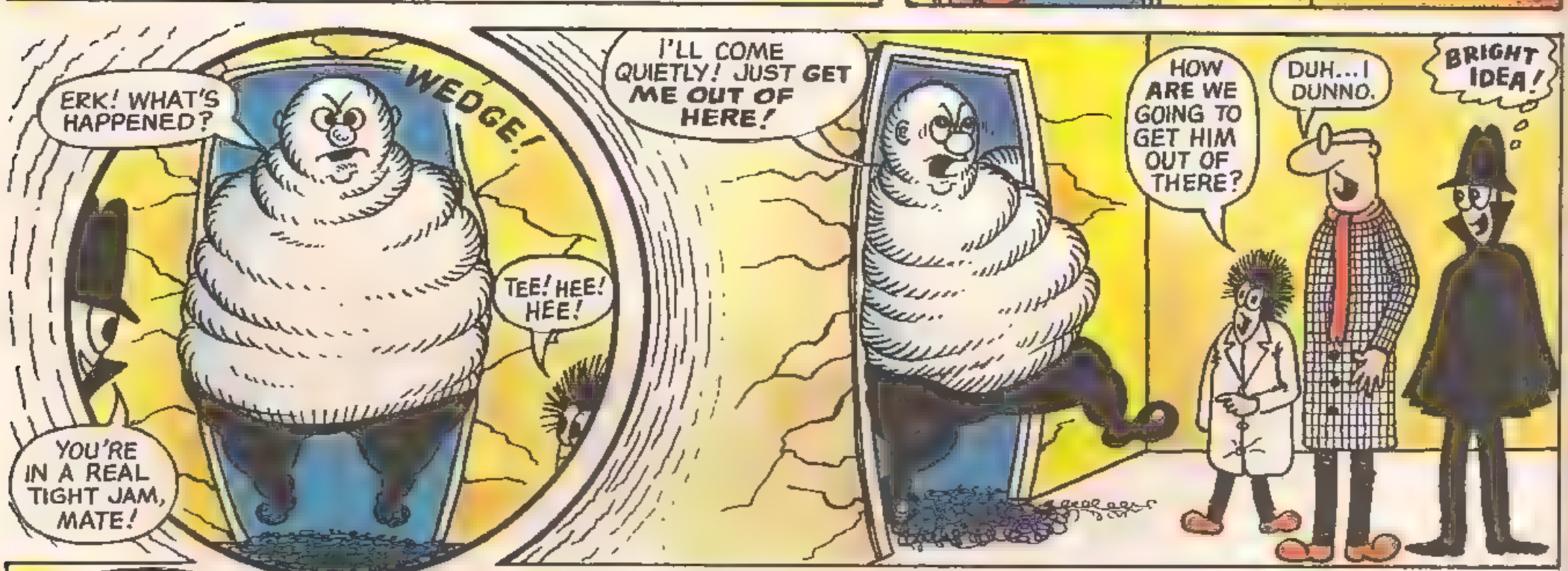
OOH, I'D MAKE A SMASHING QUEEN OF THE MAY!

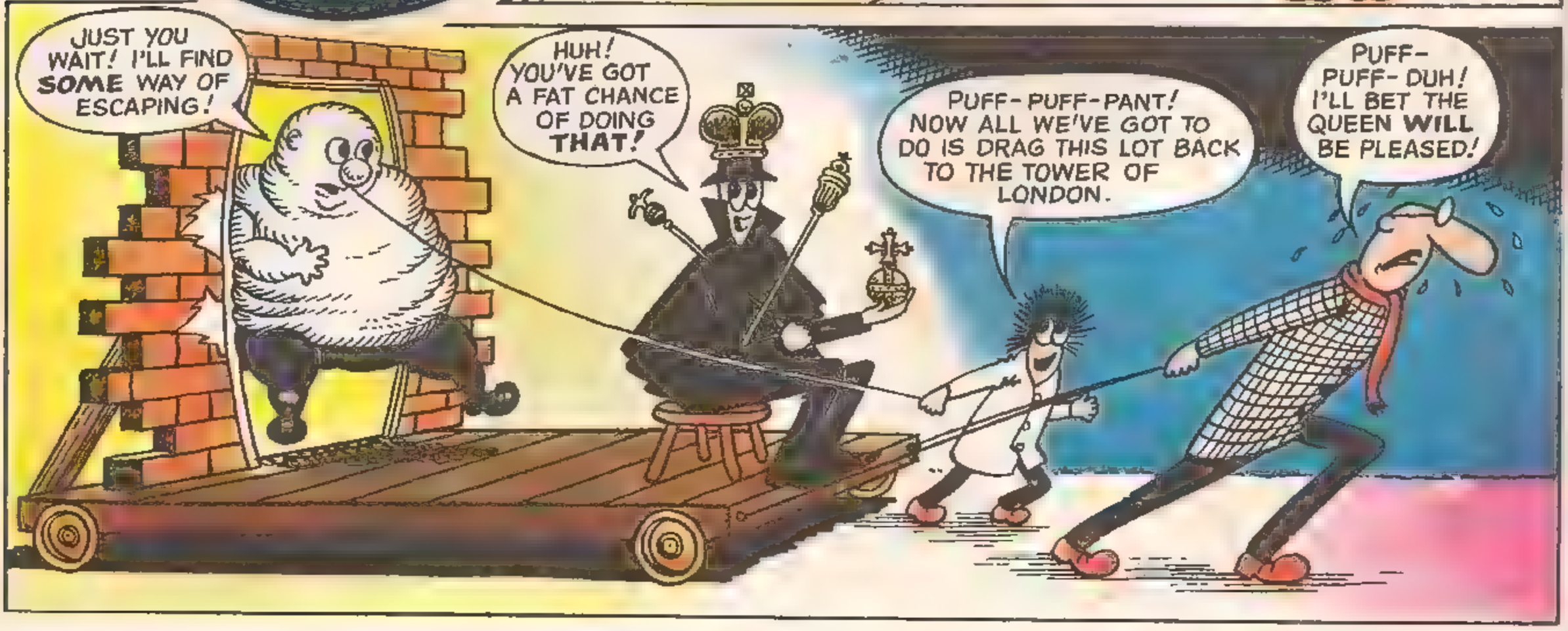

YAH-BOO!
EH? HOW DID YOU LOT GET IN HERE?
CAN'T CATCH ME!
THRARP!


JUST STAND STILL WHILE I SIT ON YOU!
CAN'T RUN FOR TOFFEE!
THRARRRRP!
SOPPY OL' BLUBBERMAN!

QUICK, LADS! THROUGH THIS DOOR AN' TRY TO GET HIM TO FOLLOW US!
OKAY, CHIEF!


THRARP!
THRARRP!
THRARRRP!
JUST WAIT TILL I CATCH YOU! I'LL SIT ON YOU AN' SQUEEZE YOU ALL OUT LIKE TUBES OF TOOTH-PASTE!


ERK! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WEDGE!
TEE! HEE! HEE!
YOU'RE IN A REAL TIGHT JAM, MATE!
I'LL COME QUIETLY! JUST GET ME OUT OF HERE!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE?
DUH... I DUNNO.
BRIGHT IDEA!


JUST YOU WAIT! I'LL FIND SOME WAY OF ESCAPING!
HUH! YOU'VE GOT A FAT CHANCE OF DOING THAT!
PUFF-PUFF-PANT! NOW ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS DRAG THIS LOT BACK TO THE TOWER OF LONDON.
PUFF-PUFF-DUH! I'LL BET THE QUEEN WILL BE PLEASED!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"WHEN FALLS THE METEOR!"

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1967

A METEOR FALLS!

A MAN REACHES THE SCENE!

I KNEW I SAW IT LAND HERE! I KNEW IT!

IT'S JUST THE TYPE I'VE BEEN SEEKING!

AND, OUR TITANIC TALE BEGINS!

NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT METEORS CONTAIN MICROSCOPIC LIVING MATTER!

WITH THIS, I MIGHT SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF THE UNI-VERSE!

FAME AND FORTUNE WILL BE MINE!

BUT, NORTON G. FESTER IS SOON TO LEARN THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN A CRAVING FOR WEALTH TO SOLVE UNIVERSAL SECRETS THESE DAYS! IT ALSO TAKES--

--MONEY! I MUST HAVE MONEY TO FINANCE MY RESEARCH INTO THE ORIGIN OF LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE!

SORRY, FESTER! WE'RE MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING NEW MIRACLE INGREDIENTS FOR HAIR TONIC! TRY A BANK!

AND, TRY HE DOES, WITH THESE NOT-TOO-SURPRISING RESULTS--

BUT, WHEN I BECOME AS FAMOUS AS DARWIN--GALILEO--ARISTOPHENES--I'LL PAY YOU BACK WITH INTEREST!

MOST GENEROUS OF YOU, SIR! BUT, UNTIL THEN, WE'D PREFER YOU TO BORROW FROM SOME OTHER INSTITUTION!

YOU'LL BE SORRY! YOU'LL ALL BE SORRY!

LOAN

BUT, NORTON G. FESTER IS NOT THE TYPE TO TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER! (IF HE WERE, THIS WOULD BE THE SHORTEST SPIDER-MAN TALE ON RECORD!)

ALL MY FEW REMAINING FRIENDS TURNED ME DOWN! THEY CALL ME A FANATIC--A NUT! JUST BECAUSE I'M AN UNDISCOVERED GENIUS!

THEY MOCK ME BECAUSE I'M TOO SMART TO WORK--TOO CLEVER TO HOLD DOWN A JOB! EVERYONE'S JEALOUS OF ME!

OKAY! I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY! I'LL GET ALONG WITHOUT IT!

JUST BECAUSE I FLUNKED SCIENCE IN SCHOOL DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T DISCOVER THE SECRET OF THE UNIVERSE! I'VE AS MUCH CHANCE AS ANYONE ELSE!

EVEN IF I CAN'T RAISE MONEY FOR A FANCY LAB AND EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT, I'LL JUST CHIP AWAY ON MY OWN! MAYBE I'LL ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLE OVER SOMETHING--LIKE ISAAC NEWTON!

YOU GUESSED IT, FRIEND! N.G.F. IS A PART-TIME NUT!

BUT, EVEN A PUSSYCAT LIKE *HIM* CAN HAVE A LUCKY BREAK-- IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO CALL *THIS*--!

-UHHHH!- I-I MUST HAVE HIT INTO A *GAS POCKET!*

CAN'T *BREATHE!* IT'S *CHOKING* ME! GOT TO GET *AWAY* FROM IT--!

COUGHING, GASPING, FESTER FALLS BACK AGAINST A LOOSE, UPRIGHT CABINET...

THE GAS WON'T *LEAVE* ME! IT'S *CLINGING*-- SEEPING RIGHT INTO MY *SKIN!!*

THUMP!

THEN, FOR A FEW SILENT MOMENTS, ALL IS QUIET--

UNTIL-- OHHHH! THOSE WISPS OF GAS-- JUST FADING AWAY *NOW!* AND THAT STRANGE ODOUR --WHY--WHY DO I FEEL SO--*DIFFERENT??*

SOMETHING'S LYING ON MY BACK! I'VE GOT TO *REMOVE* IT--!

N-NO! *NO!* IT ISN'T *POSSIBLE!*

EVEN *EMPTY,* THIS CABINET WEIGHS AT LEAST A HUNDRED POUNDS! BUT-- I'M LIFTING IT LIKE A *FEATHER!*

I'VE GOT TO TRY SOME-THING *ELSE*-- QUICKLY--!

THERE'S NO DOUBT *ABOUT* IT! MY STRENGTH HAS BEEN *MULTIPLIED* MANY TIMES! IT MUST BE THE *METEOR GAS*-- *THAT'S* WHAT AFFECTED ME!

THIS MEANS *GOOD-BYE* TO NORTON G. FESTER, PROFESSIONAL FAILURE!

AND IT MEANS *HELLO* TO-- TO--*WHAT?*

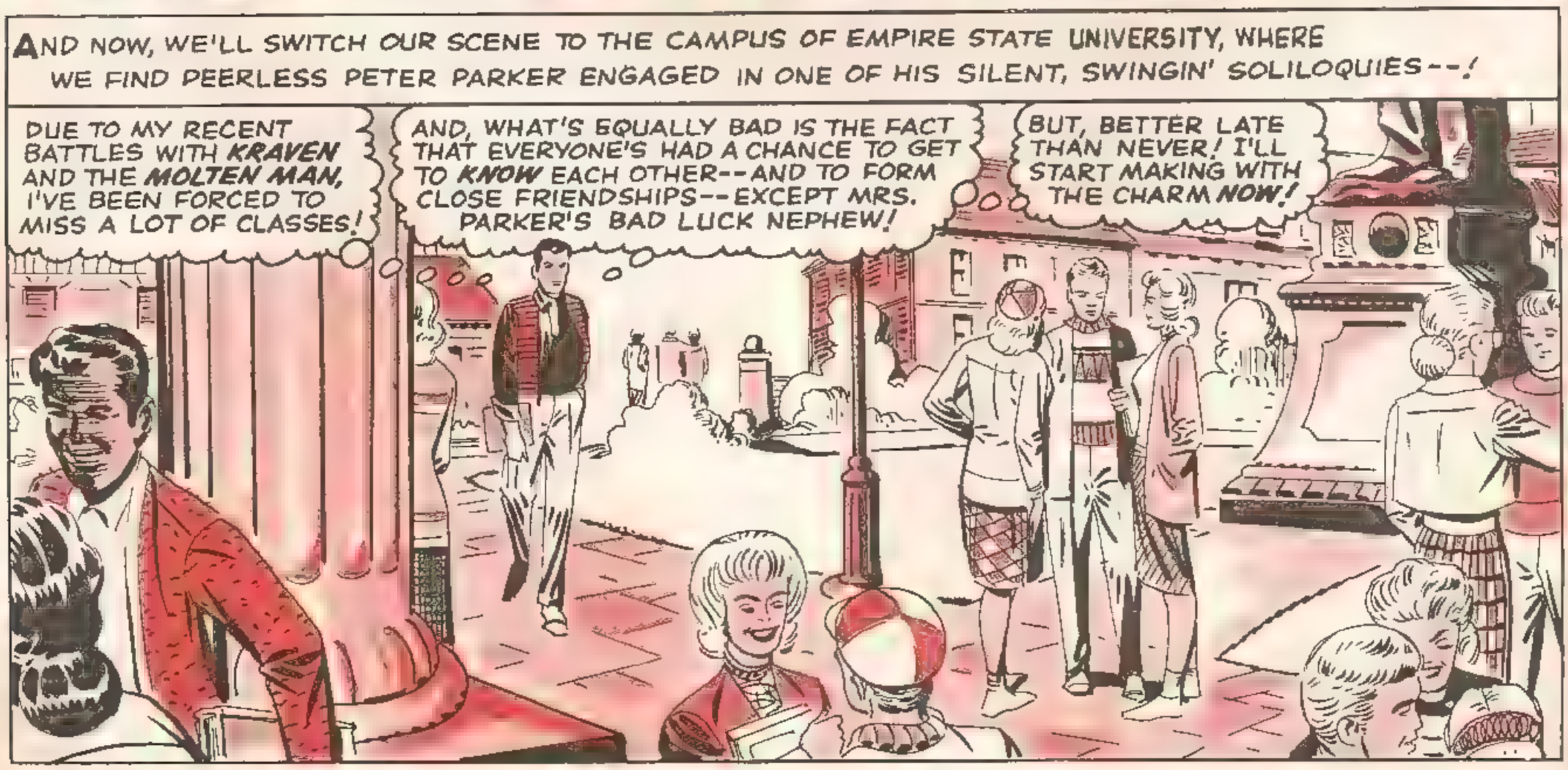
I'D BETTER EXAMINE MYSELF MORE COMPLETELY!
EVEN MY ARMS--MY LEGS--MY BODY--THEY ALL FEEL STRANGELY DIFFERENT!
--AS THOUGH SOME SUPER-HUMAN POWER IS COURSING THROUGH ME!

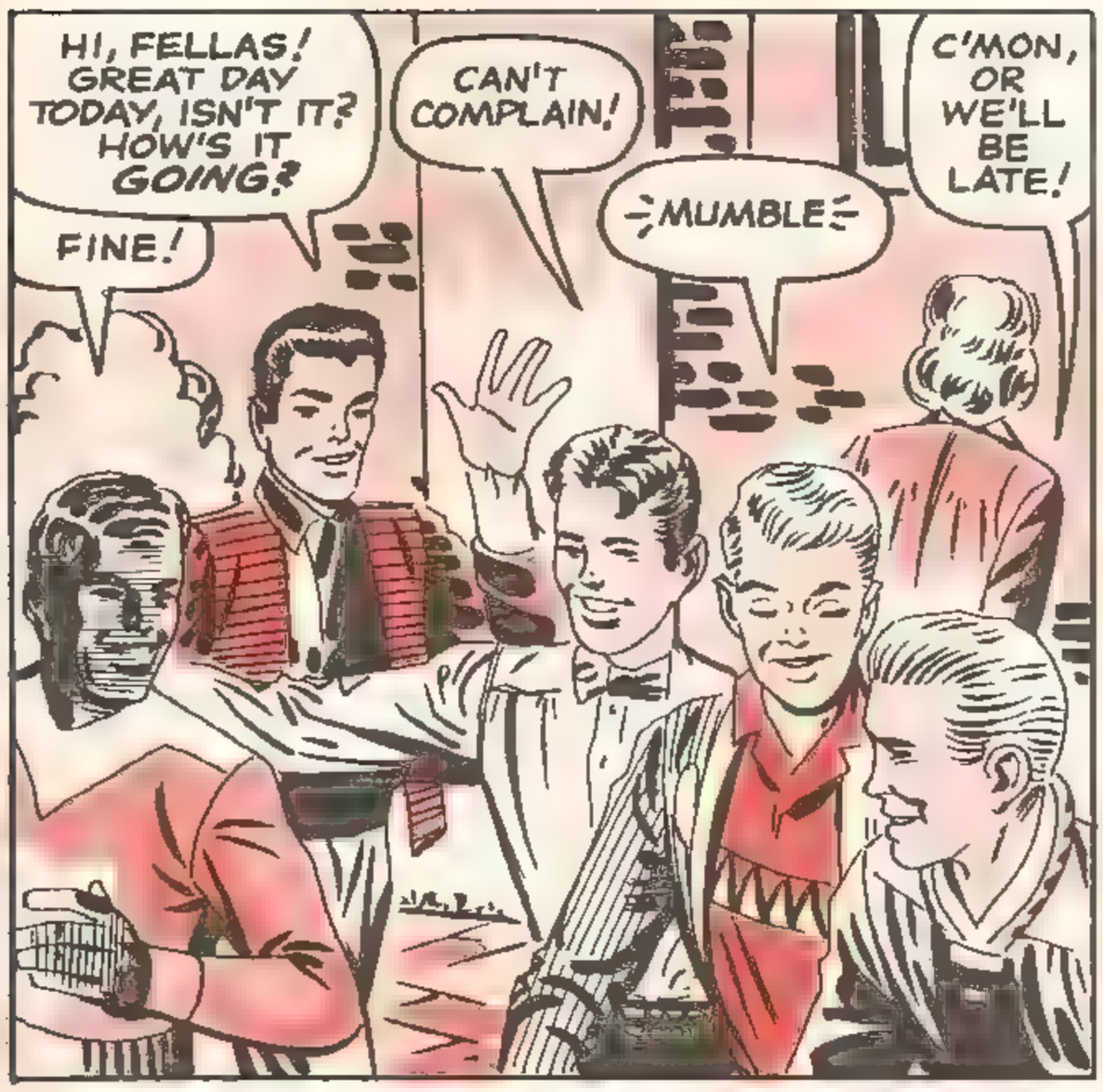
I FEEL SO STRONG--SO ALIVE! AS THOUGH I CAN DO ANYTHING!
I'VE GOT TO BE SURE IT'S NOT MY IMAGINATION! I'VE GOT TO TRY SOME-THING--!

GASP! I CAN'T BE IMAGINING THIS! MY MUSCLES THEMSELVES HAVE MANY TIMES THEIR NORMAL POWER!

IT'S WHAT EVERYBODY ALWAYS DREAMS OF IN HIS WILDEST FANTASIES! HOW WONDERFUL--HOW FITTING THAT IT HAPPENED TO ME!
I'M TOO CLEVER TO WASTE SUCH A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!
CAN'T STOP TESTING MY STRENGTH! I'M A POWER-HOUSE!

NEVERMORE WILL I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING MONEY WHEN I WANT IT! NOT NOW --WITH MY SUPER-HUMAN POWER!
THE WORLD CAN EVENTUALLY BELONG TO NORTON G. FESTER--IF I PLAN CAREFULLY!


AND NOW, WE'LL SWITCH OUR SCENE TO THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY, WHERE WE FIND PEERLESS PETER PARKER ENGAGED IN ONE OF HIS SILENT, SWINGIN' SOLILOQUIES--!
DUE TO MY RECENT BATTLES WITH KRAVEN AND THE MOLTEN MAN, I'VE BEEN FORCED TO MISS A LOT OF CLASSES!
AND, WHAT'S EQUALLY BAD IS THE FACT THAT EVERYONE'S HAD A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER--AND TO FORM CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS--EXCEPT MRS. PARKER'S BAD LUCK NEPHEW!
BUT, BETTER LATE THAN NEVER! I'LL START MAKING WITH THE CHARM NOW!

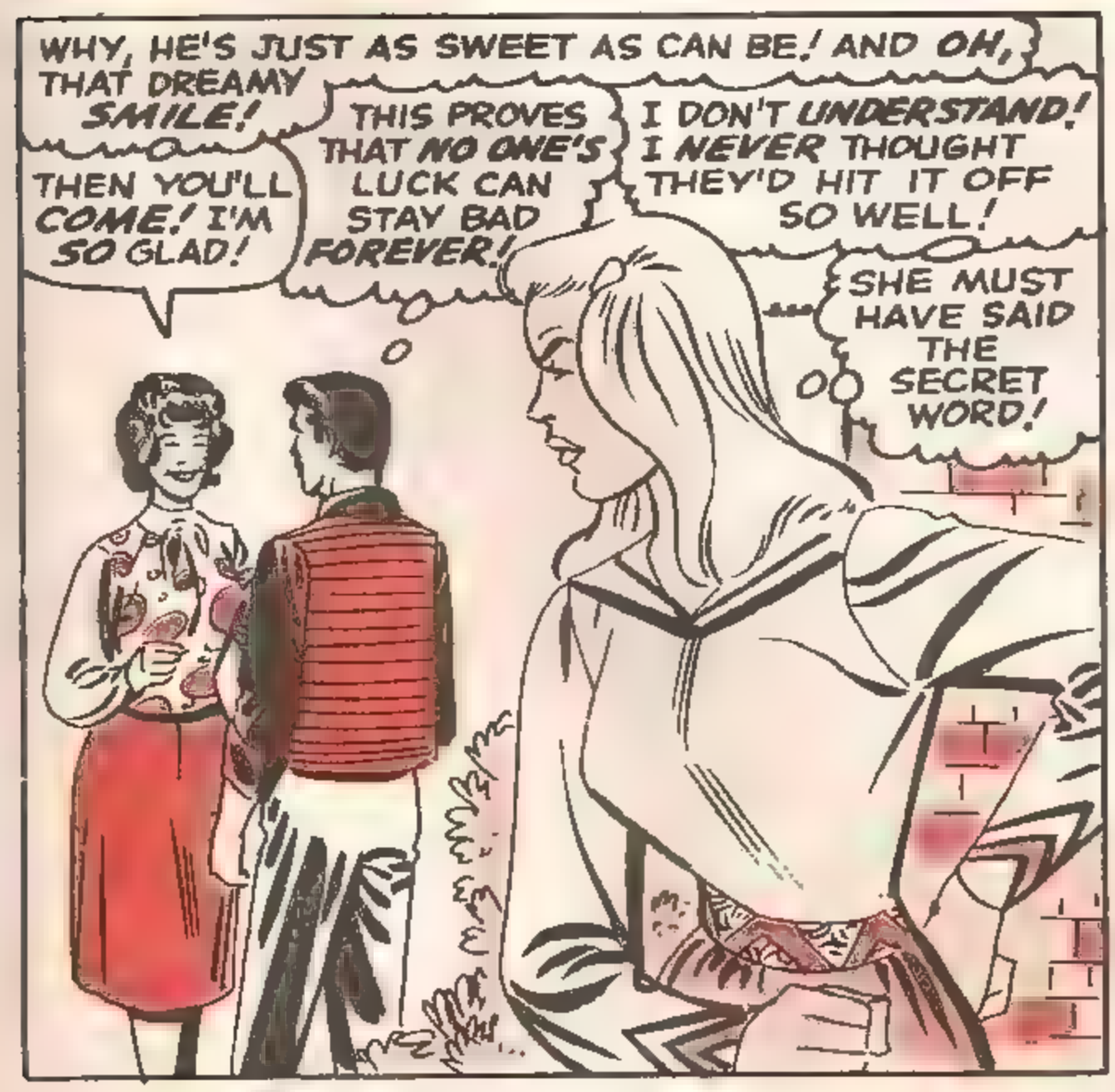

HI, FELLAS! GREAT DAY TODAY, ISN'T IT? HOW'S IT GOING?
FINE!
CAN'T COMPLAIN!
-MUMBLE-
C'MON, OR WE'LL BE LATE!

SOMETIMES I GET THE FEELING I WAS INTENDED FOR A DIFFERENT SOLAR SYSTEM!
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT! THEY'VE ALL FORMED THEIR OWN TIGHT LITTLE GROUPS! P. PARKER, ESQ., IS ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN AGAIN--AS USUAL!

BUT WAIT! WHAT'S THIS? IS PETEY'S LUCK FINALLY ABOUT TO CHANGE?
I STILL SAY YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT PARKER BEING A SNOB, GWEN--AND I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU!
BE MY GUEST, SAL!

PETER! REMEMBER ME? I'M SALLY GREEN--I'M IN YOUR ENGLISH LIT CLASS! MAY I TALK TO YOU?
SURE THING, SALLY! YOU BET!
HALLELUJAH! THE TIDE'S TURNED AT LAST!

I'M HAVING A GET-TOGETHER AT MY PLACE LATER--JUST FOR THE KIDS IN THE CLASS--
SAY! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!

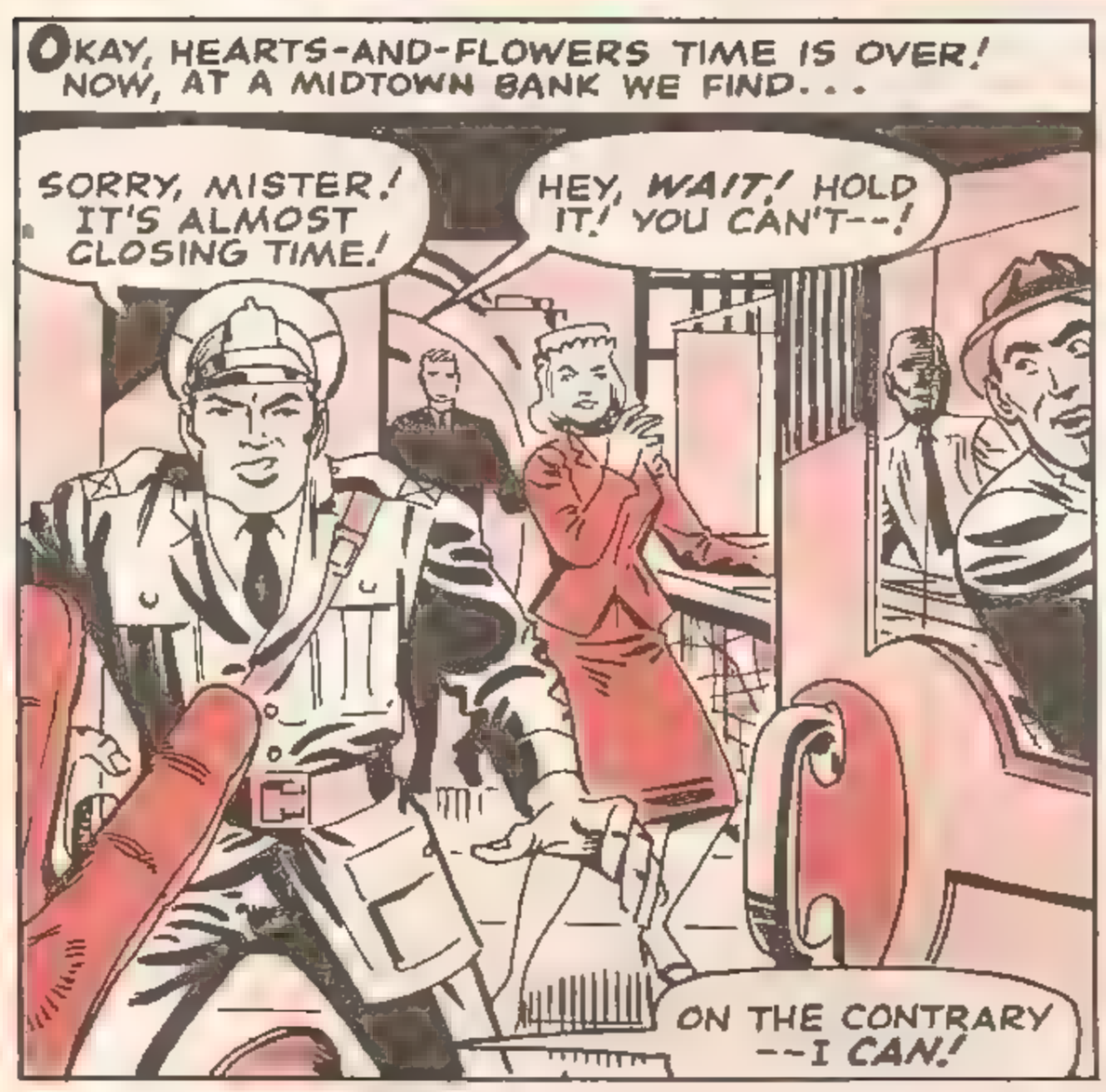

WHY, HE'S JUST AS SWEET AS CAN BE! AND OH, THAT DREAMY SMILE!
THEN YOU'LL COME! I'M SO GLAD!
THIS PROVES THAT NO ONE'S LUCK CAN STAY BAD FOREVER!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D HIT IT OFF SO WELL!
SHE MUST HAVE SAID THE SECRET WORD!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D COME, BECAUSE I'M SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE BOY WITH BRAINS, INSTEAD OF ALL THOSE BRAWNY ATHLETIC TYPES!
OH NO! NOT AGAIN! WILL I ALWAYS BE THOUGHT OF AS NOTHING BUT AN EGGHEAD??

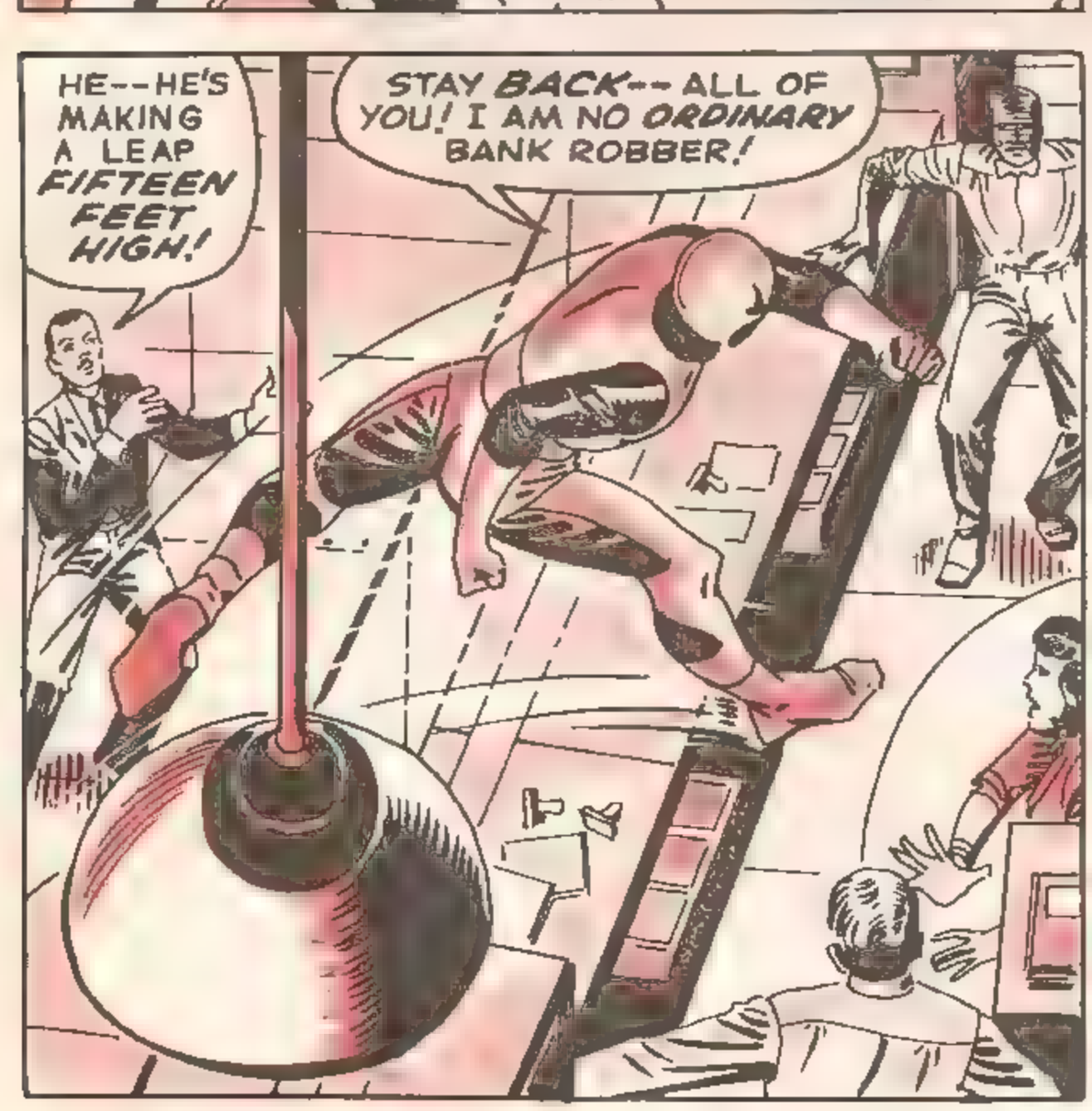
TELL YOU WHAT, SALLY-- IF I CAN MAKE IT, I'LL LET YOU KNOW! I MIGHT BE PRETTY BUSY TONIGHT!
BUT--I THOUGHT--! I MEAN--YOU--WELL, ALL RIGHT!

I TIP MY WIG TO YOU, LADY! YOU HAD HIM PEGGED 100% RIGHT!
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS ACTING HUMAN, HE GAVE ME THE BRUSH --BUT GOOD!
WELCOME TO THE CLUB, SAL! NOW YOU'RE ONE OF US!

I HATED TO DO IT, BUT I HAD TO!

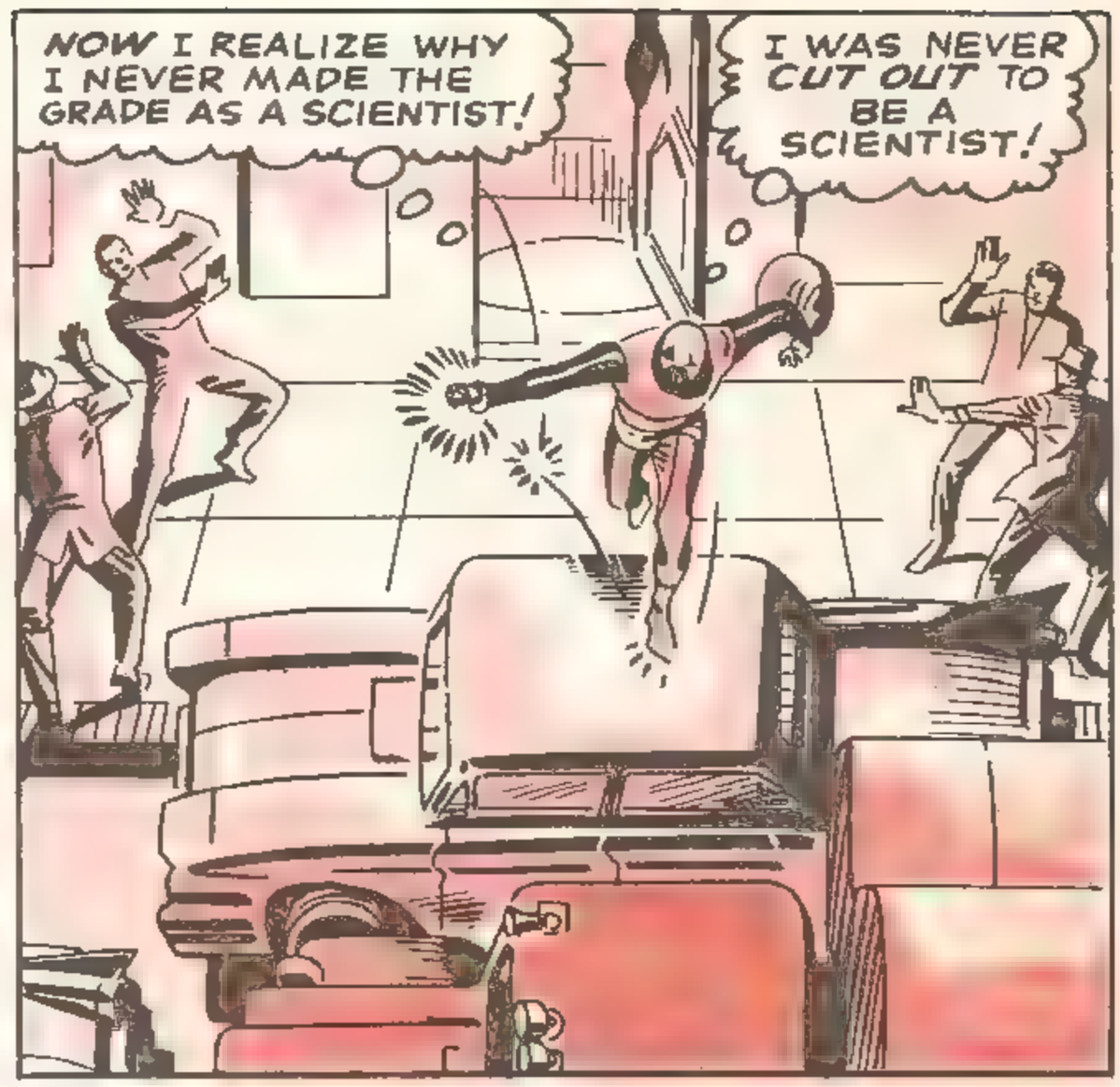

OKAY, HEARTS-AND-FLOWERS TIME IS OVER! NOW, AT A MIDTOWN BANK WE FIND...
SORRY, MISTER! IT'S ALMOST CLOSING TIME!
HEY, WAIT! HOLD IT! YOU CAN'T--!
ON THE CONTRARY --I CAN!

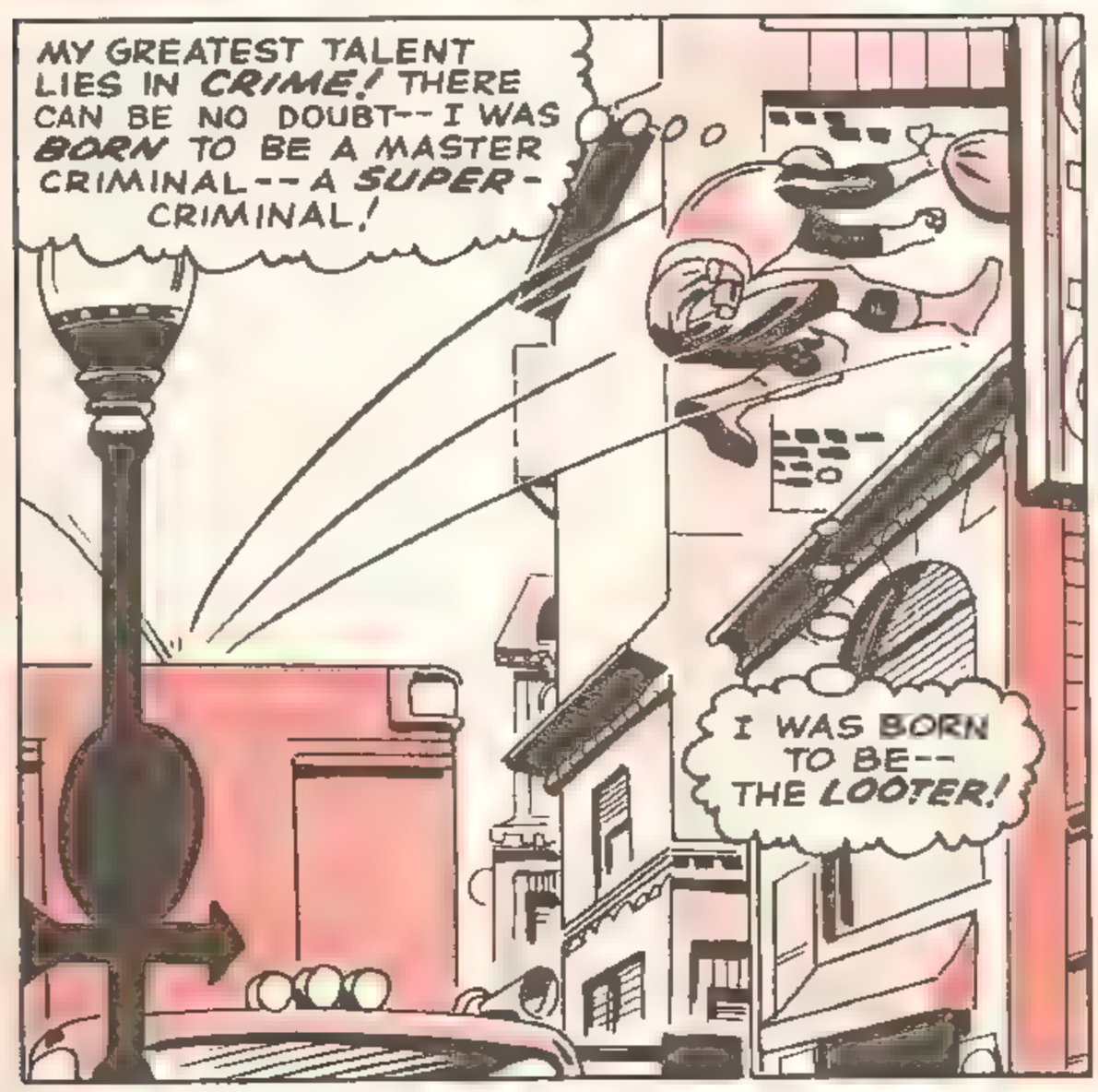
THE LOOTER CAN DO ANYTHING!
WOK!


HE--HE'S MAKING A LEAP FIFTEEN FEET HIGH!
STAY BACK-- ALL OF YOU! I AM NO ORDINARY BANK ROBBER!

IT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS TO EMPLOY THIS COSTUME-- AND THE NAME LOOTER! THE SHOCK VALUE ALONE EARNS ME PRECIOUS SECONDS!
THERE! THIS GIVES ME THE READY CASH I NEED!

AND MY PREVIOUSLY-PREPARED DAZZLE LIGHT WILL AFFORD ME AN EFFORTLESS ESCAPE BY MOMENTARILY BLINDING ANYONE NEARBY!


NOW I REALIZE WHY I NEVER MADE THE GRADE AS A SCIENTIST!
I WAS NEVER CUT OUT TO BE A SCIENTIST!


MY GREATEST TALENT LIES IN CRIME! THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT-- I WAS BORN TO BE A MASTER CRIMINAL-- A SUPER-CRIMINAL!
I WAS BORN TO BE-- THE LOOTER!

MINUTES LATER, AT THE APARTMENT LAB OF NORTON G. FESTER--
IT WORKED PERFECTLY! BUT, THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING! EACH JOB WILL BE BIGGER-- MORE SPECTACULAR!

AND, IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE LOOTER KEEPS HIS VOW! EMPLOYING HIS SUPER-STRENGTH TO THE FULLEST, HE BECOMES A ONE-MAN CRIME WAVE--!
BUT, THE MORE HE SEIZES, THE GREEDIER HE GETS! AND NOW, 'TIS TIME FOR OUR SWINGIN' STAR TO ENTER THE SCENE...

LIKE A WRAITH IN THE NIGHT, THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING WEB-SPINNER TAKES UP THE CITY-WIDE SEARCH FOR THE ELUSIVE *LOOTER!* BUT, TRY AS HE MAY, HE FINDS--

NO *TRACE* OF HIM! JUST MY LUCK-- THE ONE NIGHT I CAN TAKE A FEW HOURS OFF FROM MY STUDIES--

--AND IT HAS TO BE THE NIGHT THAT THE *LOOTER* IS PROBABLY HAVING THE NIGHT OFF!

BUT, I'VE *GOT* TO FIND HIM SOONER OR LATER! IF HE'S AS DANGEROUS, AS SUPER-POWERED AS THEY SAY, I'M ONE OF THE VERY FEW WHO MIGHT *STOP* HIM!

AND, I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE HOW THAT *DAZZLE LIGHT* OF HIS WORKS!

MEANWHILE, THE OBJECT OF SPIDEY'S ATTENTION HAS A BRAND NEW WORRY OF HIS OWN--

THERE'S NO MORE *GAS* LEFT INSIDE MY METEOR FRAGMENT!

I'VE GOT TO FIND *ANOTHER* SUCH METEOR -- IN CASE MY *POWER* STARTS TO WANE!

AND NOW THAT WE'VE PRETTY WELL TELEGRAPHED WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT, LET'S REJOIN MR. PARKER, A FEW DAYS LATER--

IT'S TOO *EARLY* TO GO SEARCHING FOR THE LOOTER TONIGHT! I MIGHT AS WELL KILL SOME TIME IN *HERE!*

SPACE EXHIBIT

THAT LOOKS LIKE-- *OH!* IT *IS!* IT'S PETER PARKER!

I WONDER IF THIS IS *FATE!* IT COULD BE MY CHANCE TO REALLY GET TO *KNOW* HIM!

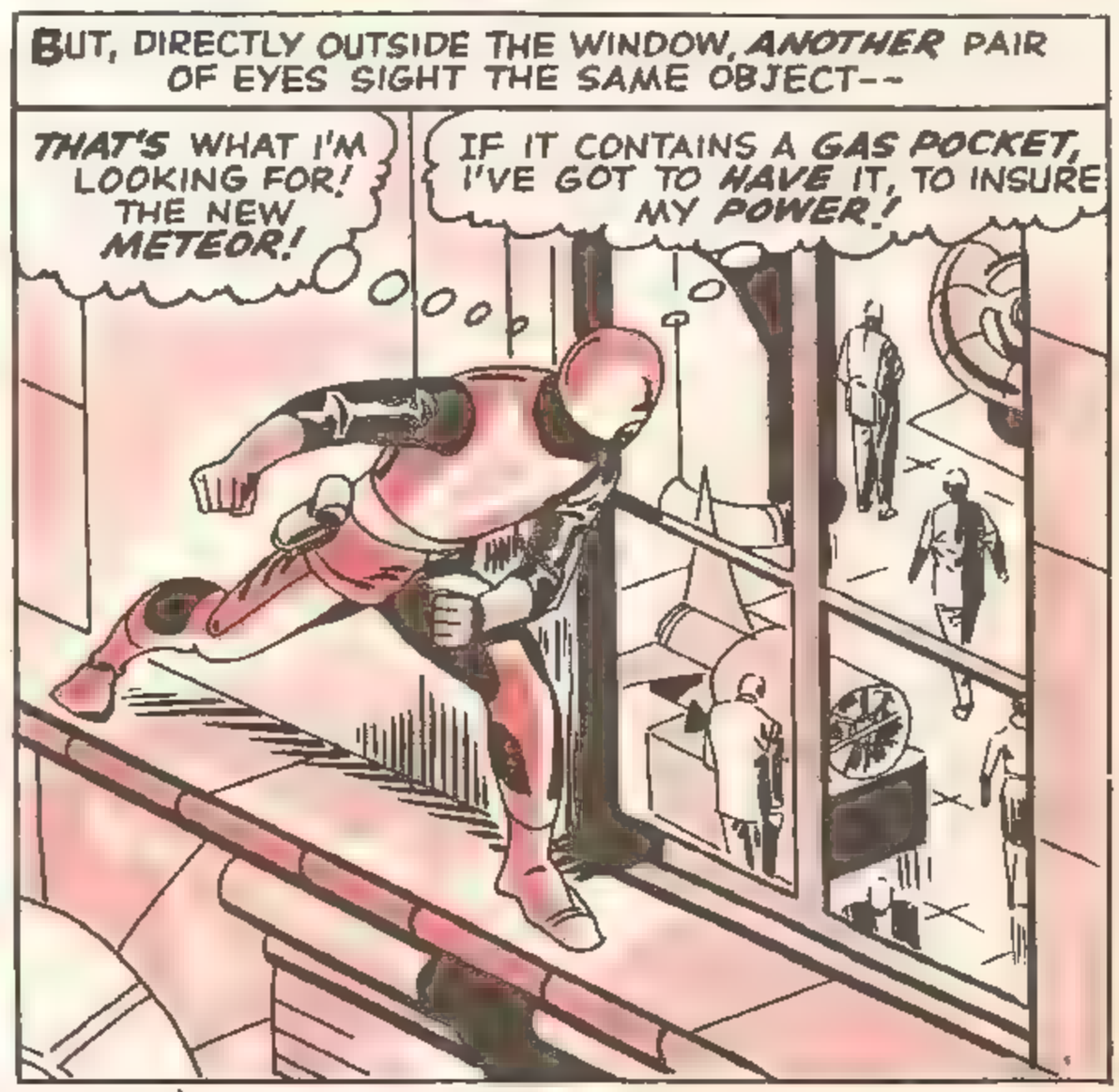
I COULD ACCIDENTALLY BUMP INTO HIM INSIDE!

I'LL DO IT!

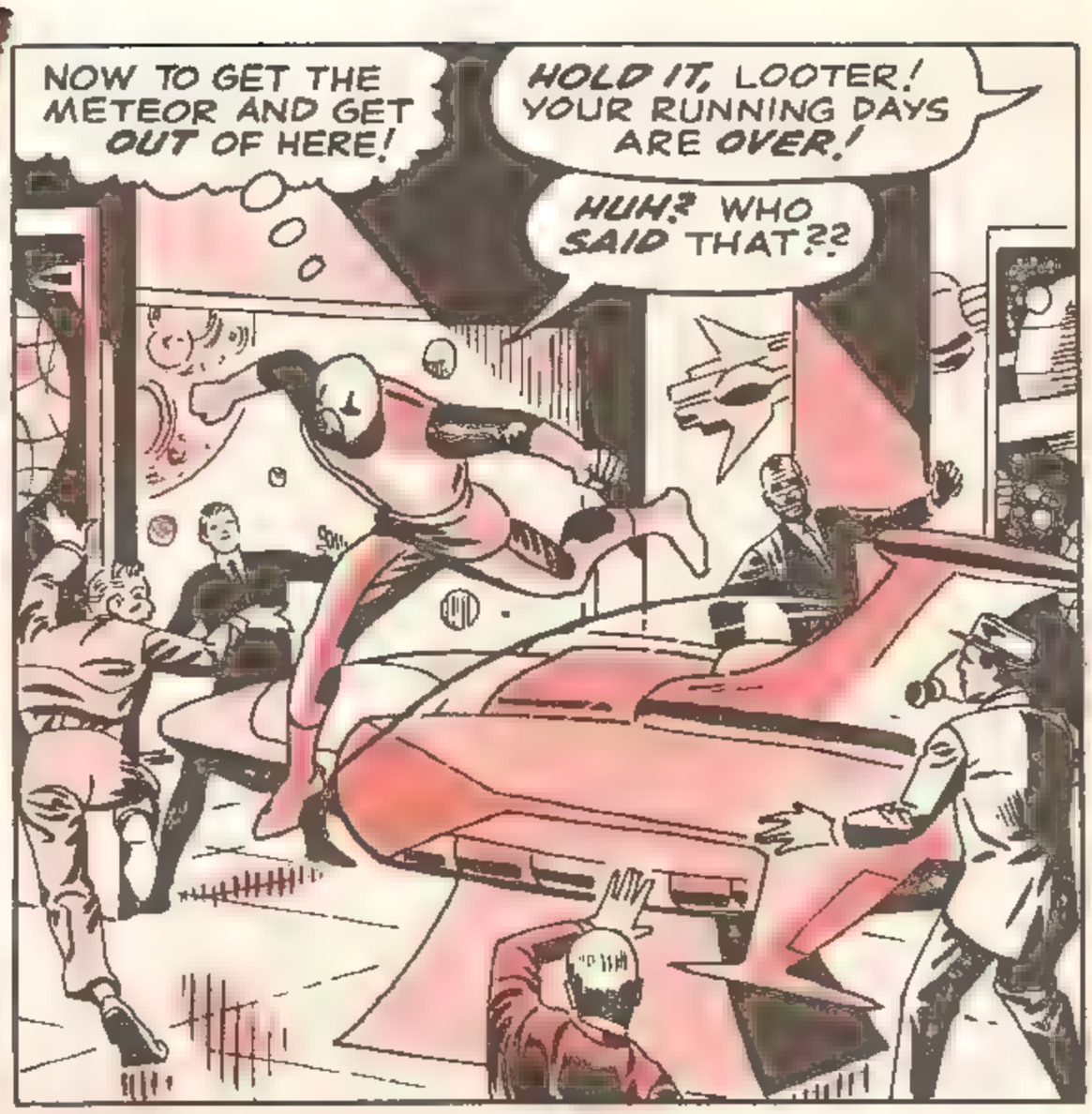
BOY! WOULDN'T I LOVE TO BE ABLE TO BUILD A CONTRAPTION LIKE THIS MYSELF SOMEDAY!

WOULDN'T IT BE A BLAST IF PEOPLE FOUND OUT THAT OL' ROUGH-'N-TUMBLE SPIDEY IS REALLY A DYED-IN-THE-WOOL SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT AND SCIENCE BUFF!

I HOPED HE'D SEE ME AND COME OVER TO ME--BUT HE'S STUDYING THOSE DISPLAYS LIKE THEY'RE PIN-UPS!

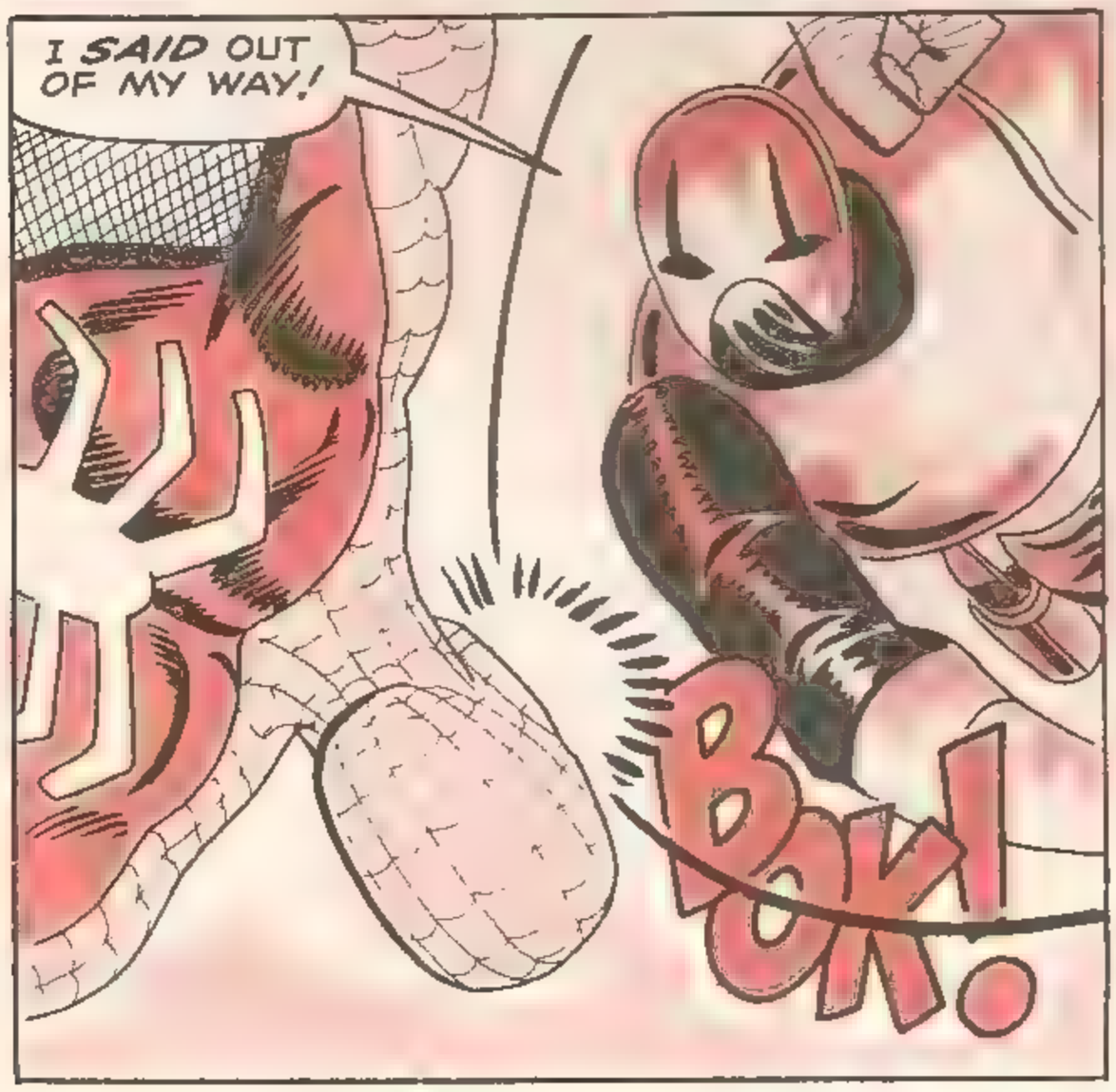


IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, YOU'LL HAVE ONLY YOURSELVES TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENS!
THWOK!


NOW TO GET THE METEOR AND GET OUT OF HERE!
HOLD IT, LOOTER! YOUR RUNNING DAYS ARE OVER!
HUH? WHO SAID THAT??

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD SPIDER-MAN! THERE'S MY CALLING CARD--!
SPIDER-MAN! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

HOLD IT, MISTER! IT'S TIME WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER!
I KNOW ALL I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU! OUT OF MY WAY!


I SAID OUT OF MY WAY!
BAK!

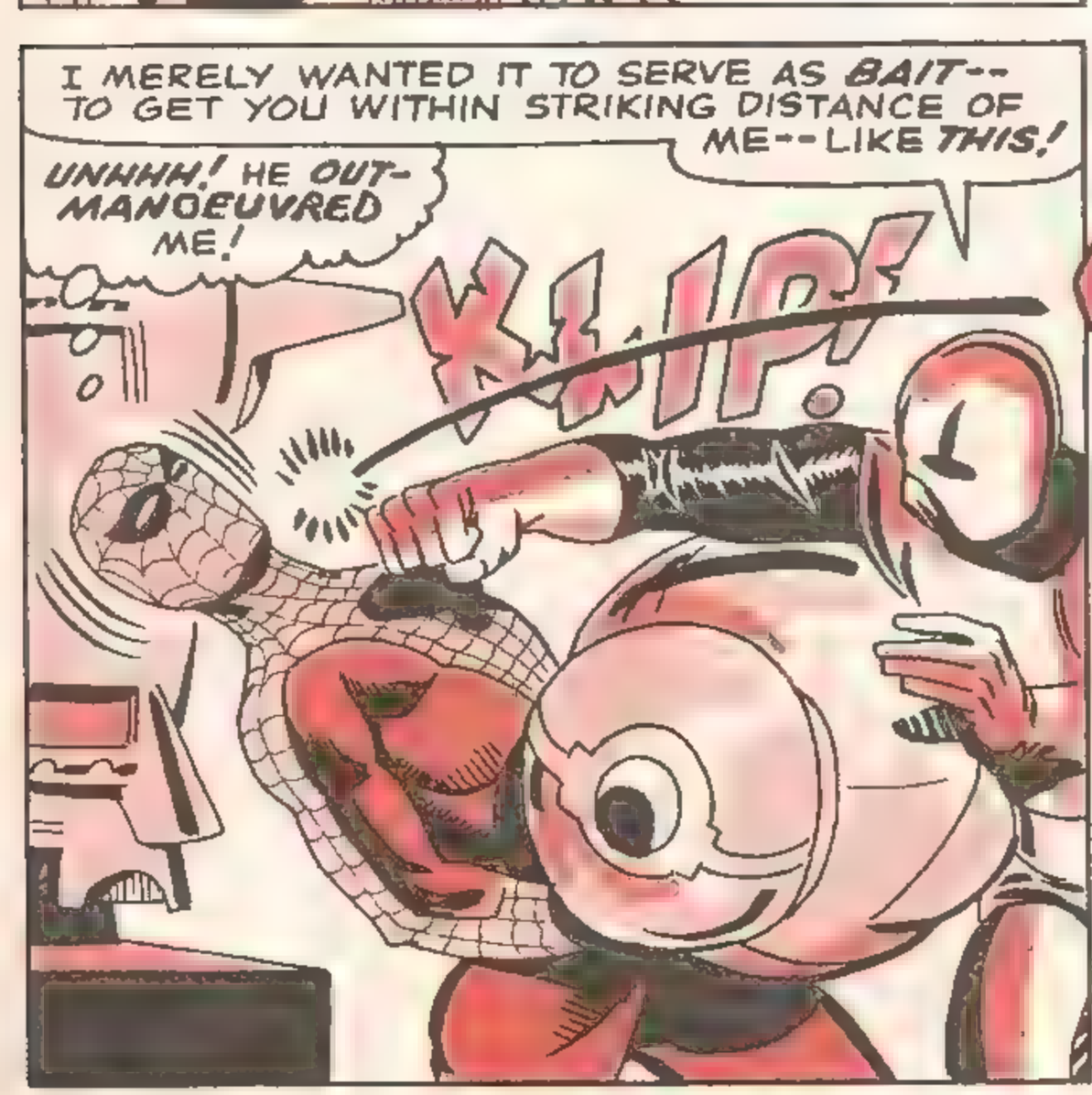
I HEARD YOU! I HEARD YOU!
THE REPORTS AREN'T EXAGGERATED! HE'S PLENTY STRONG! PERHAPS STRONGER THAN I AM!
I'LL NEED MY WITS THIS TIME AS MUCH AS MY POWER!

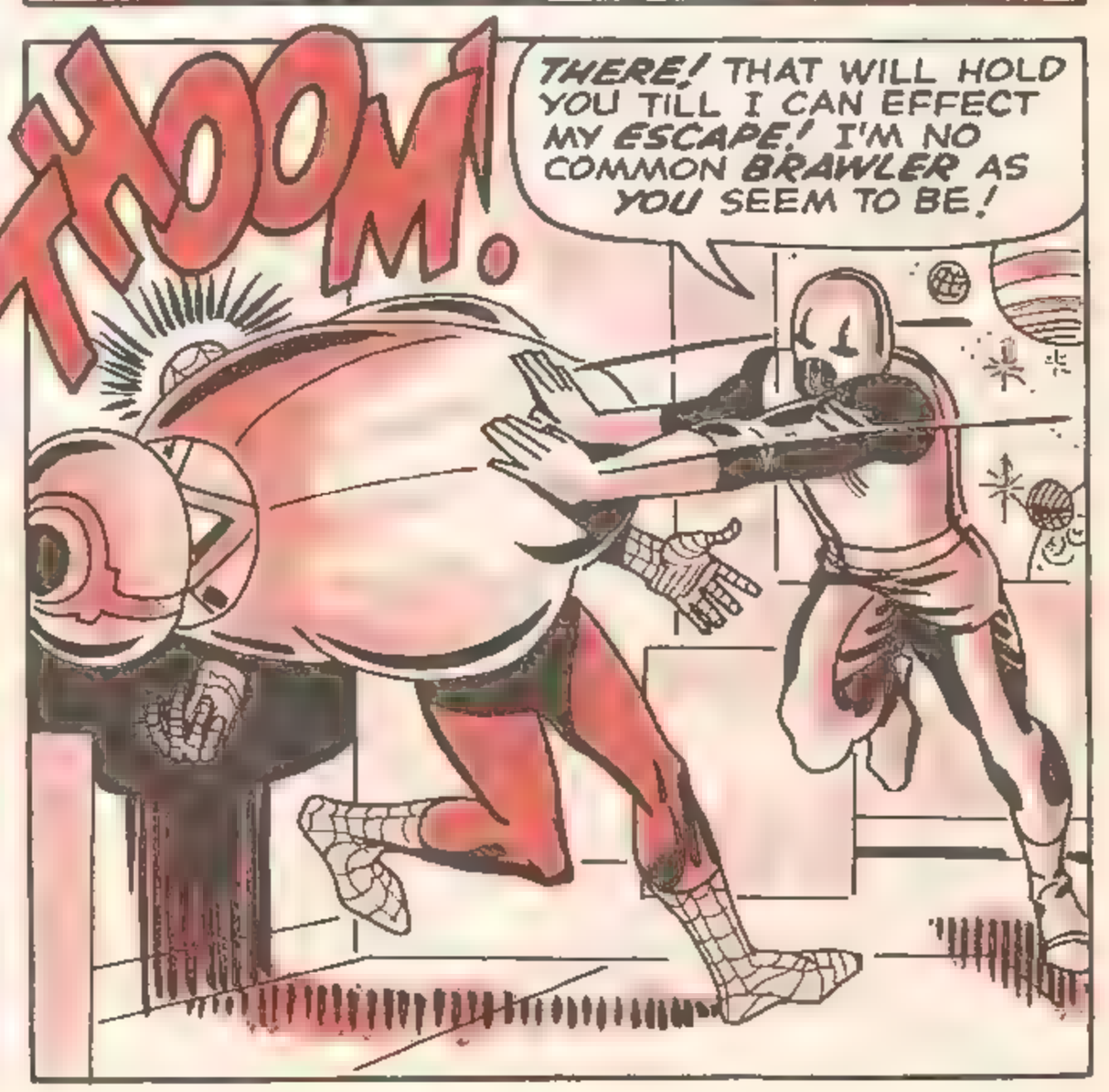
THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU NOT TO GO AROUND LOOKING FOR TROUBLE! THIS TIME YOU FOUND IT!
THAK!

THANKS FOR THE ADVICE, MASKED MAN! NOW COP THAT LOT!
FLOPP!

ONE THING'S IN MY FAVOUR! I'M LUCKY. HE'S NEW AT THIS SORT OF THING!
OOOH--!
WITH HIS STRENGTH, IF HE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE, IT MIGHT BE "SO LONG, SPIDEY"!

THAT SOCK WOULD HAVE PUT ANYONE ELSE TO SLEEP!
HEY-- LOOK OUT! THAT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!
INDEED? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT'S ANY CONCERN OF MINE?


I MERELY WANTED IT TO SERVE AS BAIT-- TO GET YOU WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF ME--LIKE THIS!
UNHHH! HE OUT-MANOEUVRED ME!
KLIPP!


THOOM!
THERE! THAT WILL HOLD YOU TILL I CAN EFFECT MY ESCAPE! I'M NO COMMON BRAWLER AS YOU SEEM TO BE!

BUT, IT TAKES MORE THAN A FEW SHATTERING BLOWS TO STOP THE AMAZING *SPIDER-MAN!*

COME BACK, LITTLE SHEBA! I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU DIDN'T SKIN YOUR KNOBBY LITTLE KNUCKLES!

AGAIN??! WHAT DOES IT *TAKE* TO STOP YOU??!

MORE THAN *YOU'VE* GOT, LOOTER!

NOW, IF YOU'LL HOLD NICE AND STILL, IT'LL BE *OVER* BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

WHEW! I KEEP PUNCHING--AND HE KEEPS COMING BACK FOR *MORE!*

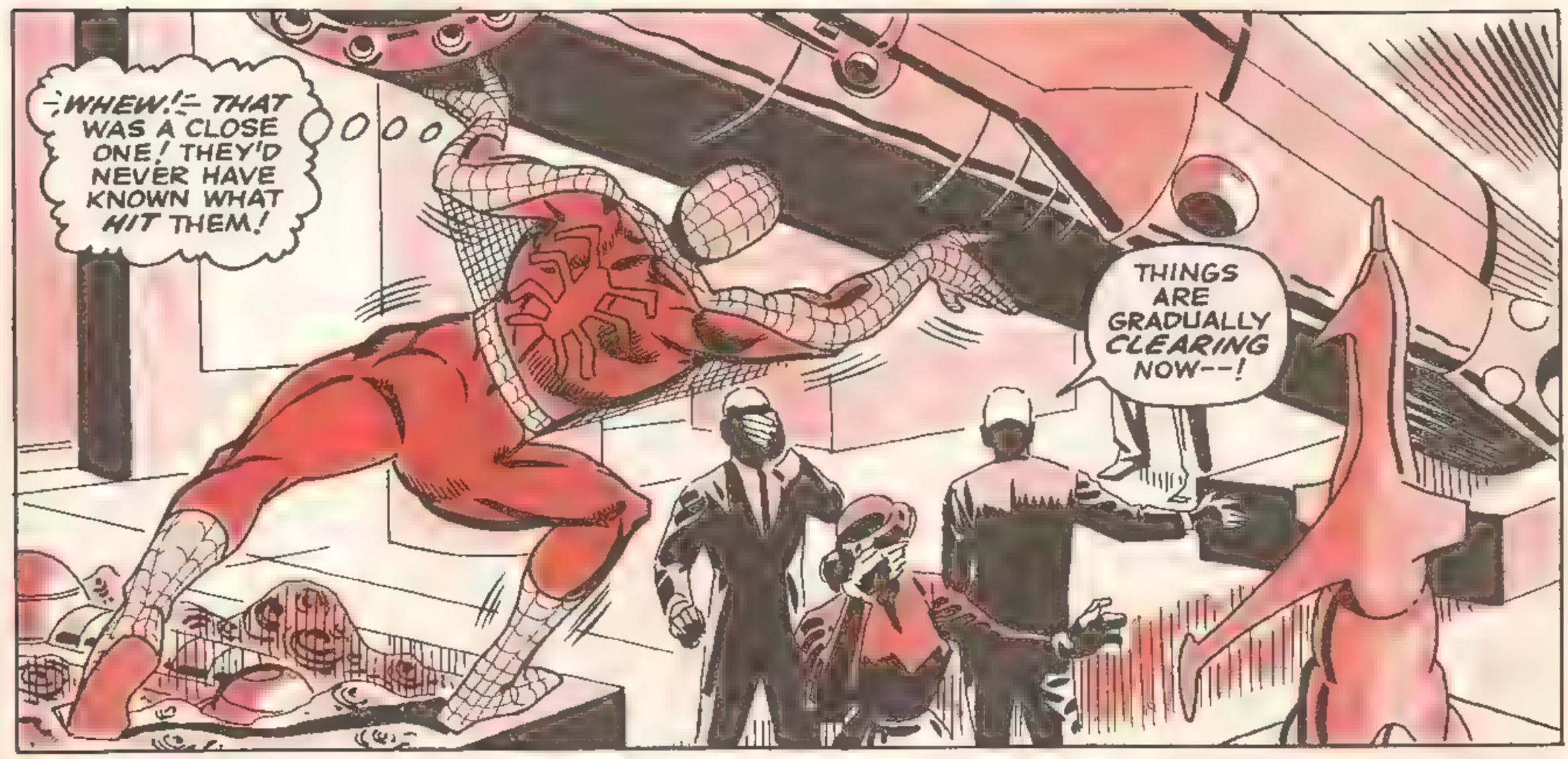
I CAN'T OUT-FIGHT HIM--HE'S TOO SKILFUL! BUT, I STILL HAVE AN *ACE* IN THE HOLE--!

MY *DAZZLE GUN!* IT'S NEVER FAILED ME BEFORE! IT WON'T FAIL ME *NOW!*

I CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE BY *BLINDING* ME!--AND I *WON'T!*

ALL I NEED DO IS SHUT MY EYES AND FOLLOW HIM EASILY BY MEANS OF MY EVER-LOVIN' SPIDER SENSE!
IT DOESN'T WORK ON HIM! THE FIRST TIME IT'S EVER FAILED ME!

BUT, IT DAZED EVERYONE ELSE, GIVING ME THE TIME I NEED!
MY EYES! I CAN'T SEE!
WHAT HAPPENED??
HE'S TRYING TO UPSET THAT GIANT IRON SHIP MODEL ON THE CROWD!


-WHEW!- THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! THEY'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN WHAT HIT THEM!
THINGS ARE GRADUALLY CLEARING NOW--!

I'LL MAKE SURE THIS GIZMO IS STEADY AGAIN, AND THEN I'D BETTER LOSE MYSELF FAST!
AS SOON AS THEIR VISION BECOMES NORMAL, THE CROWD IS SURE TO BLAME ME FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED-- LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO!

WELL, I GOT OUT OF THERE JUST IN TIME-- BUT I LOST THE LOOTER!
HE COULD HAVE RUN OFF IN ANY DIRECTION! THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING!

THUS, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

I MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK AND SEE THE REST OF THE EXHIBIT!

NO SENSE LETTING THE DAY BE A *TOTAL* LOSS!

SAY! I KNOW *HER*! SHE'S *GWEN STACY*!

HI, GWEN! ENJOYING THE EXHIBIT?

I *WAS*-- UNTIL *NOW*, PARKER!

HUH? *WAIT*-- WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT DID I *DO*?

PERHAPS IT'S WHAT YOU *DIDN'T* DO!

YOU DIDN'T STAY AND TRY TO *HELP*!

HOW CAN ANY-ONE SO *PRETTY* BE SUCH A *NUT*?

AND YET, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE SO *MANLY-LOOKING* COULD BE A COWARD! IF ONLY I HADN'T *SEEN* HIM WITH MY OWN EYES--!

BUT, BACK IN HIS LITTLE HIDEOUT, NORTON G. FESTER HAS HIS OWN PROBLEMS--ALTHOUGH, AS WE CAN SEE, THEY AREN'T MATTERS OF THE HEART--!

IT WAS *STUPID* OF ME TO BLUNDER INTO THAT EXHIBIT THE WAY I DID! I SHOULD HAVE *PLANNED* MY MOVE MORE CAREFULLY--LEFT NOTHING TO CHANCE!

I FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT SOMEONE LIKE *SPIDER-MAN* MIGHT BE THERE!

AND YET, I CAN-NOT STOP NOW! I *MUST HAVE* THAT METEOR!!

AND HAVE IT I *SHALL*-- BUT, *THIS* TIME I'LL SET MY PLANS CAREFULLY! I'LL BE PREPARED FOR *ANYTHING*!

THE NEXT DAY...

THE *FIRST* THING TO DO IS INSPECT THE PREMISES CALMLY--CAREFULLY--!

HMMM... I SEE THEY HAVE *ARMED GUARDS* HERE NOW!

I DON'T DARE RISK ANOTHER FRONTAL ASSAULT--NOT *THIS* TIME!

AND YET, THE METEOR *MUST* BE MINE! IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE THAT I WON'T LOSE MY *POWER!*

AND, WHILE FESTER MAKES HIS PLANS...

HEY, PUNY PARKER--NONE OF THE *OTHER* GUYS ARE HERE YET! HOW'D *YOU* LIKE TO TOSS THE OL' PIGSKIN AROUND?

CAN'T STOP NOW, FLASH! ANYWAY, IF I OUT-THREW *YOU*, YOU'D HAVE A *FIT!*

PETER PARKER OUT-THROWING *FLASH!* THAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING I'VE HEARD ALL DAY!

TELL ME, GWEN, WHAT DID I *DO* TO BECOME NUMBER ONE ON YOUR *HATE* PARADE?

YEAH, LET US *ALL* IN ON IT, GAL!

MAYBE I *WILL* SOME TIME! RIGHT NOW, I'M TOO BUSY *LAUGHING!*

WELL, DON'T LET *ME* STOP YOU!

WHY DO I ALWAYS GET INTERESTED IN GIRLS THAT CAN'T SEE ME FOR *DUST?!!*

I ADMIRE YOUR *GOOD TASTE*, GWEN! IF YOU'VE GOT TO HATE *SOMEBODY*, PARKER'S THE PERFECT CHOICE!

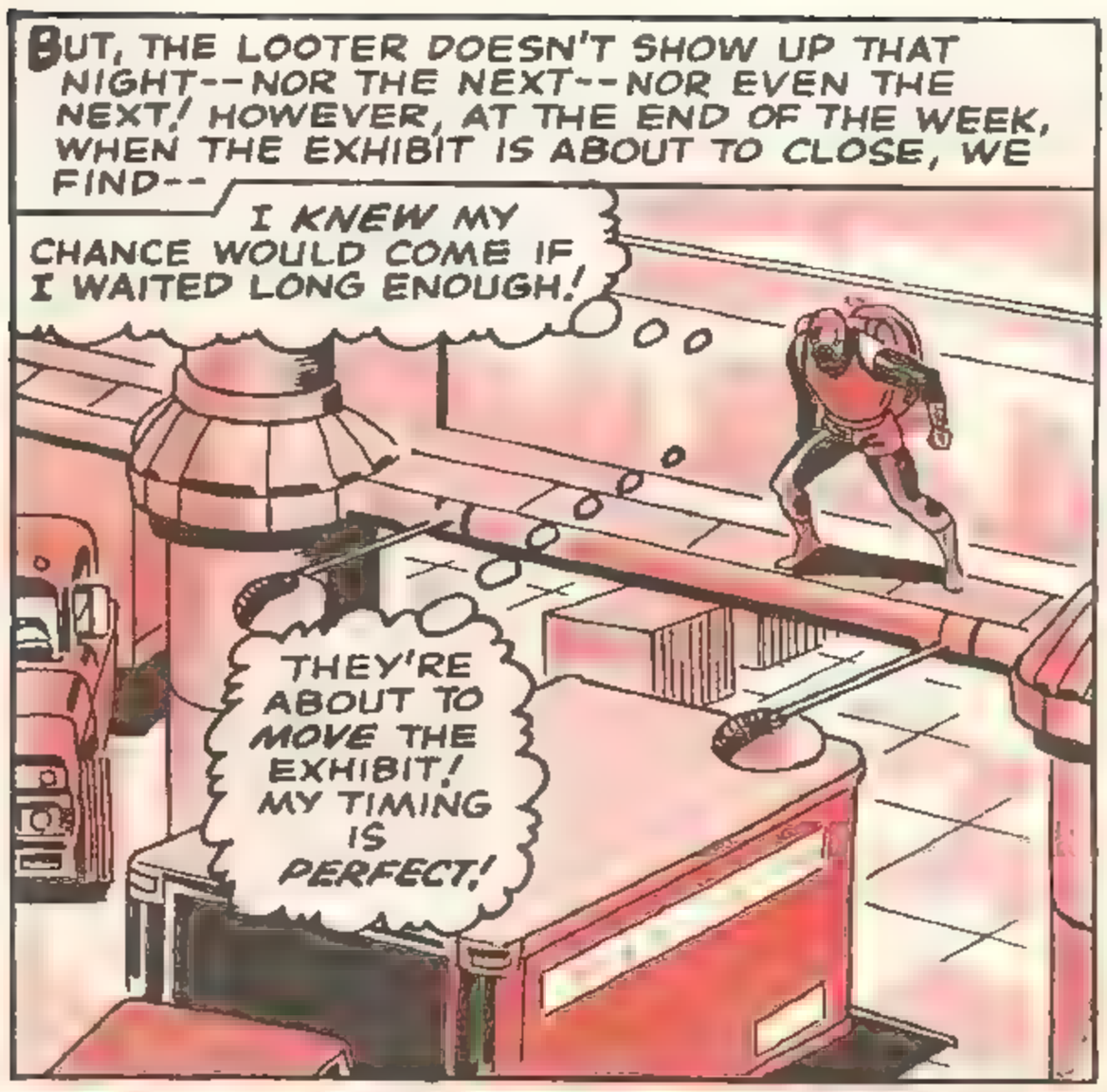
A SHORT TIME LATER, WE FIND *"PUNY PARKER"* IN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT GUISE...

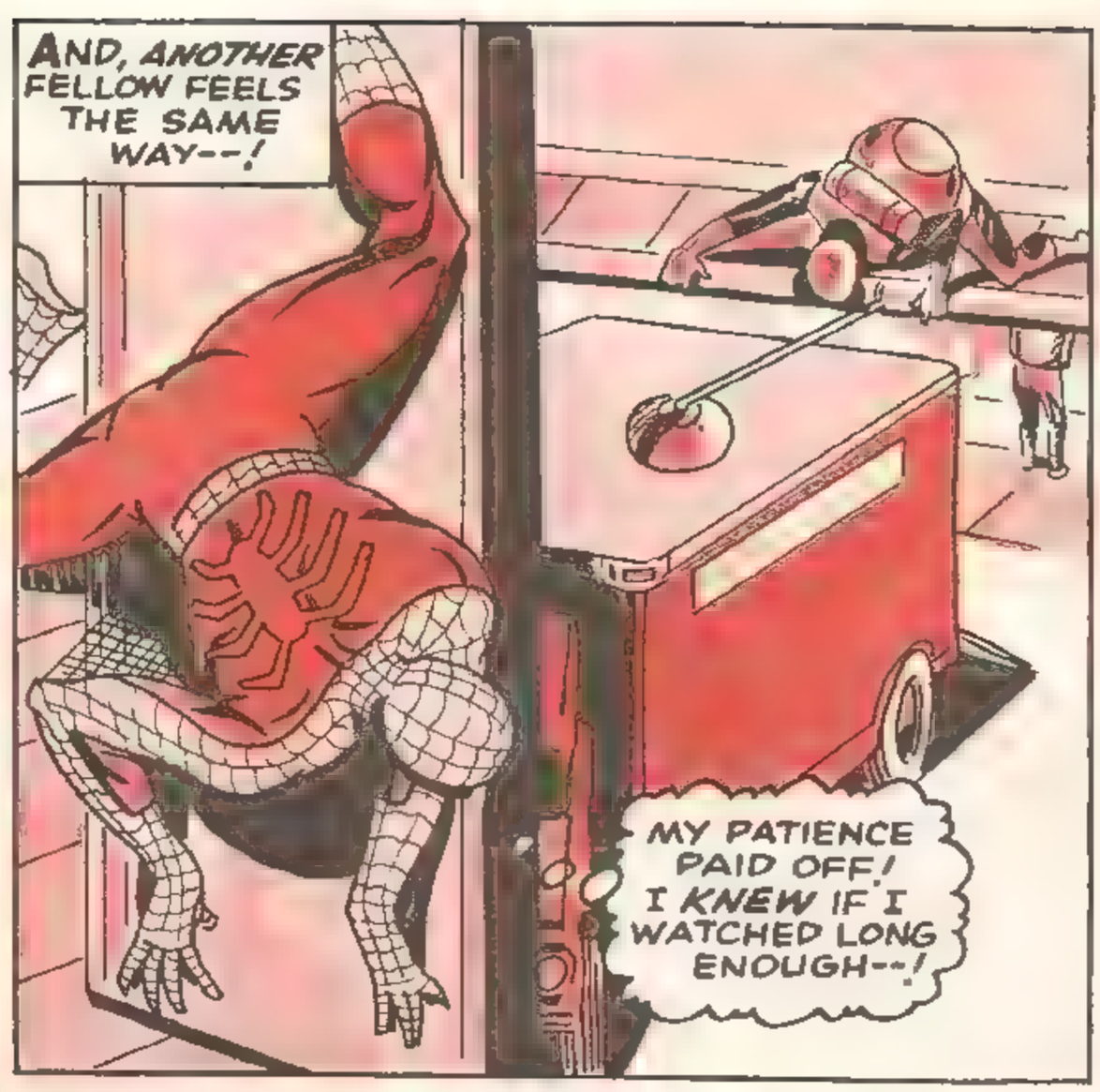
THE *LOOTER* HAD A *REASON* FOR COMING HERE BEFORE--BUT, HE LEFT EMPTY-HANDED!

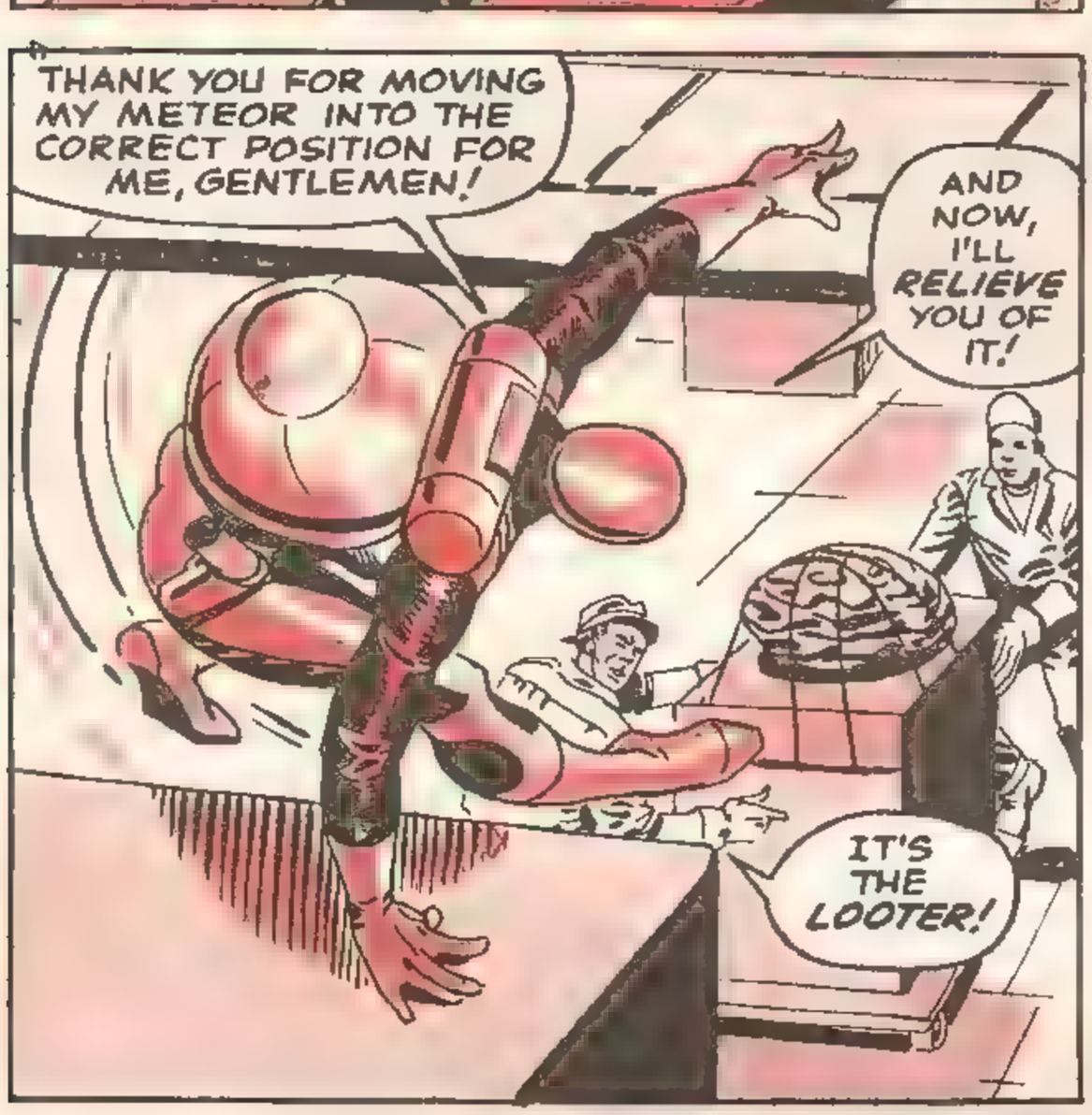
SO, WHATEVER HE WAS AFTER IS STILL *THERE*--WHICH MEANS THERE'S A CHANCE HE'LL BE *BACK!*

IT'S PROBABLY STILL TOO *EARLY* FOR HIM! I'LL RACE HOME SO AUNT MAY DOESN'T WORRY ABOUT ME, AND THEN I'LL RETURN HERE AFTER SHE'S ASLEEP!

HAH!


BUT, THE LOOTER DOESN'T SHOW UP THAT NIGHT--NOR THE NEXT--NOR EVEN THE NEXT! HOWEVER, AT THE END OF THE WEEK, WHEN THE EXHIBIT IS ABOUT TO CLOSE, WE FIND--
I KNEW MY CHANCE WOULD COME IF I WAITED LONG ENOUGH!
THEY'RE ABOUT TO MOVE THE EXHIBIT! MY TIMING IS PERFECT!

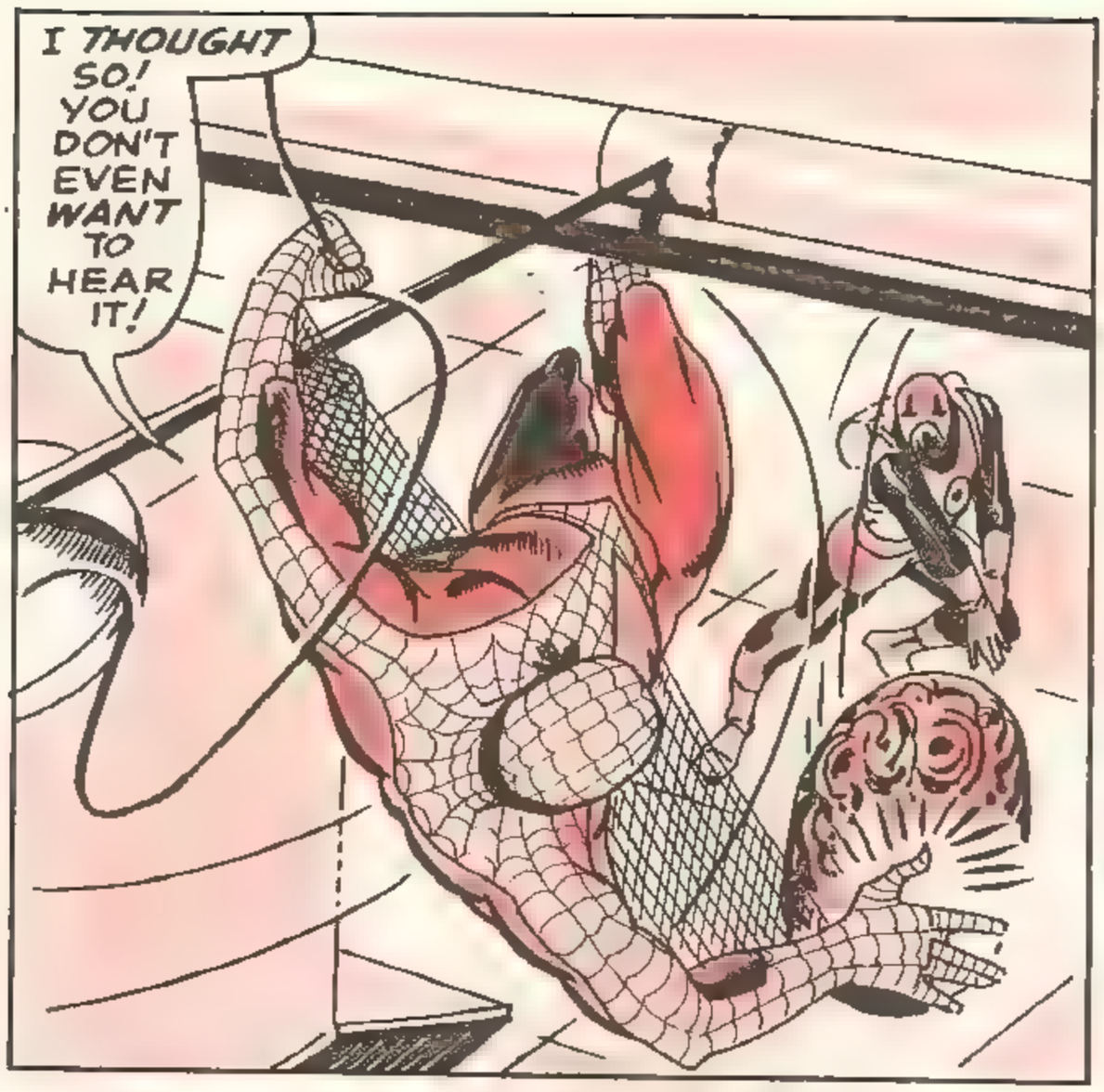

AND, ANOTHER FELLOW FEELS THE SAME WAY--!
MY PATIENCE PAID OFF! I KNEW IF I WATCHED LONG ENOUGH--!

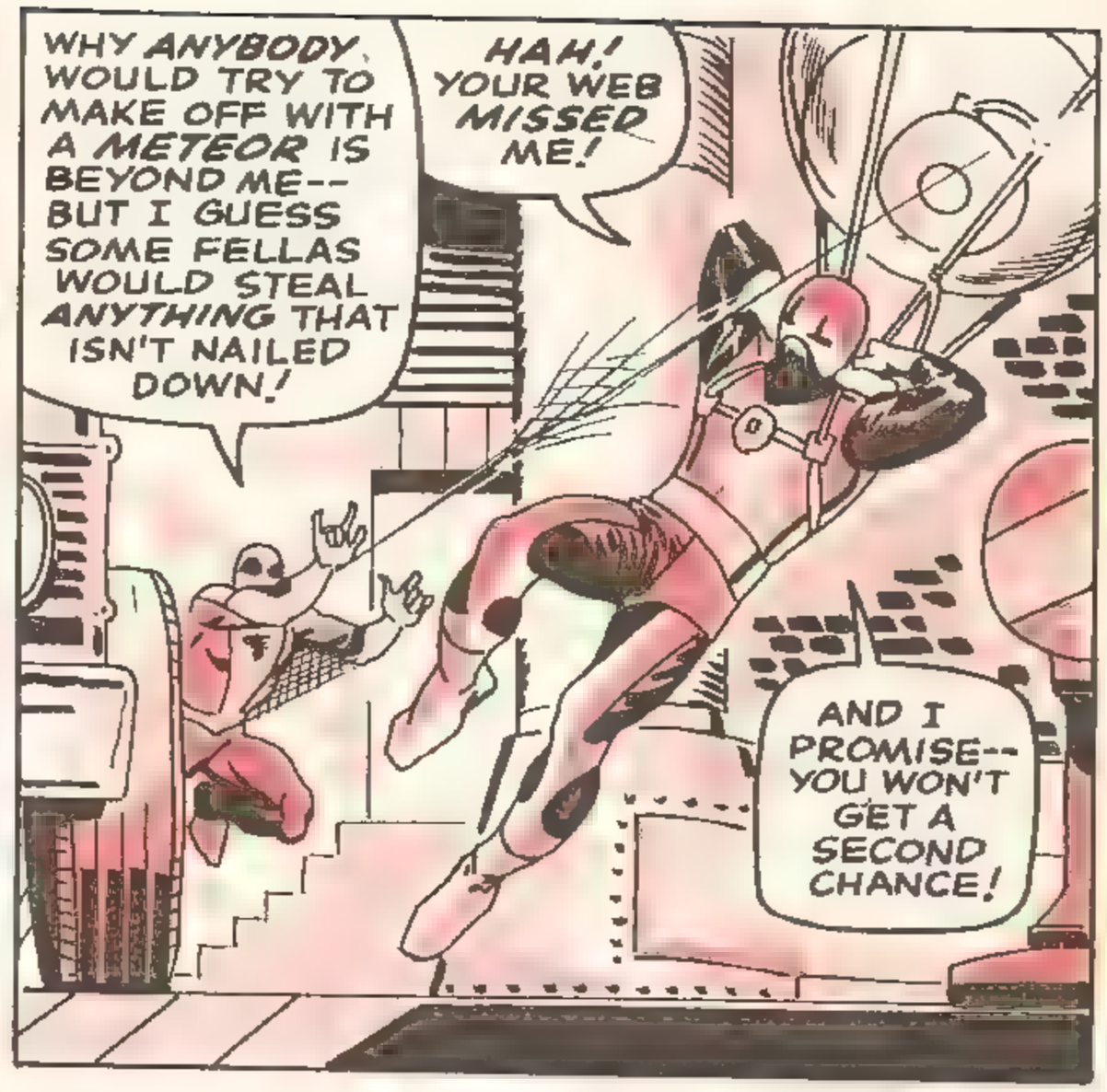

THANK YOU FOR MOVING MY METEOR INTO THE CORRECT POSITION FOR ME, GENTLEMEN!
AND NOW, I'LL RELIEVE YOU OF IT!
IT'S THE LOOTER!

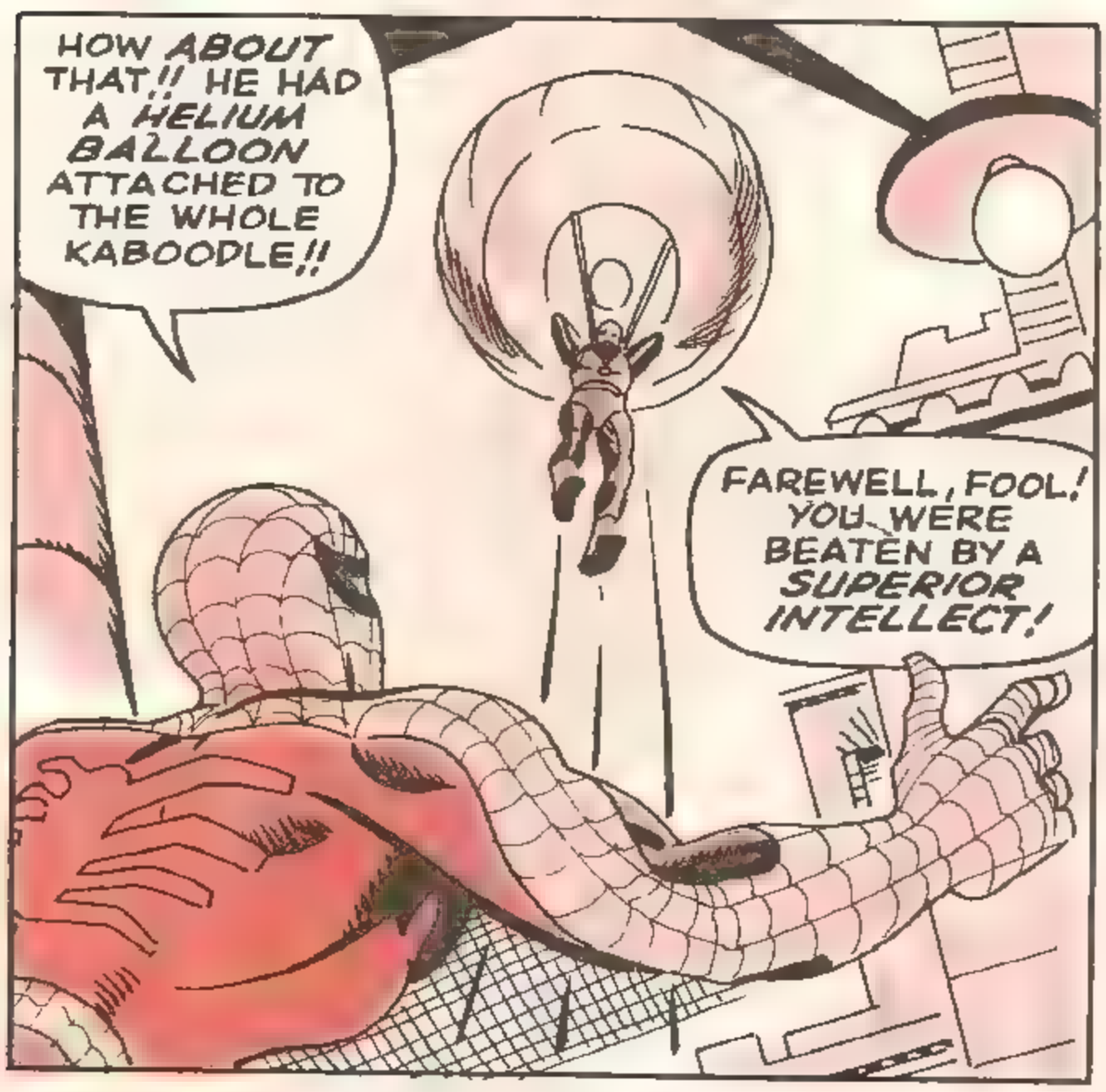
YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT RESISTANCE WOULD BE COMPLETELY FUTILE AGAINST ONE AS POWERFUL AS I!

I PLANNED EVERYTHING TO PERFECTION! NOW, I NEED MERELY HOOK THESE SPECIAL STRAPS ONTO THE METEOR--

HEY, LOOTER! YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING BYE-BYE TO YOUR OLD SPARRING PARTNER, WOULD YOU?
SPIDER-MAN!! BUT--HOW--??
IT'S A LONG STORY--BUT, IF YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED--!


I THOUGHT SO! YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO HEAR IT!


WHY ANYBODY WOULD TRY TO MAKE OFF WITH A METEOR IS BEYOND ME-- BUT I GUESS SOME FELLAS WOULD STEAL ANYTHING THAT ISN'T NAILED DOWN!
HAH! YOUR WEB MISSED ME!
AND I PROMISE-- YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!


HOW ABOUT THAT!! HE HAD A HELIUM BALLOON ATTACHED TO THE WHOLE KABOODLE!!
FAREWELL, FOOL! YOU WERE BEATEN BY A SUPERIOR INTELLECT!

DON'T CROW TOO SOON, PLAYMATE! I'M NOT TOSSING IN THE TOWEL YET!
SCALE THAT WALL ALL YOU WANT TO! YOU CAN'T REACH ME!

DON'T BET ON IT, CHUM!

US SPIDER-MEN ARE A HARDY BREED!

GERONIMO!!

YOU'RE DOOMED! YOU CAN'T REACH ME! YOU'LL FALL TO THE GROUND!

NOT IF MY LARGE, ECONOMY-SIZE WEBBING DOES ITS JOB!

AND IT'S NEVER FAILED ME YET!

THWIP!

THWIP!

OKAY NOW, LOOTER! PUSH THE DOWN SWITCH, OR WHATEVER WORKS THAT NUTTY BALLOON, AND LET'S GET BACK TO EARTH!

NEVER! YOU CAN'T STOP ME NOW!

MAYBE NOT, BUT I'M SURE GOING TO TRY!

THE ODDS ARE ON MY SIDE! YOU CAN ONLY USE ONE HAND!

I ONLY NEED ONE HAND! ONE BLOW IS ALL IT'LL TAKE--!

YOU'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE!

UHHH! MY WEBBING! IT COULDN'T CLING SECURELY ENOUGH TO THE SMOOTH SURFACE!

I'M FALLING!

HAH! I WARNED YOU!

DON'T START GLOATING YET! THAT BIG FOOT OF YOURS IS JUST WHAT I NEED!

YOU CAN'T HOLD ON FOR LONG! I'LL GET YOU OFF WITH ONE KICK!
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED MEDICAL HELP BECAUSE OF YOUR ANTI-SOCIAL TENDENCIES?

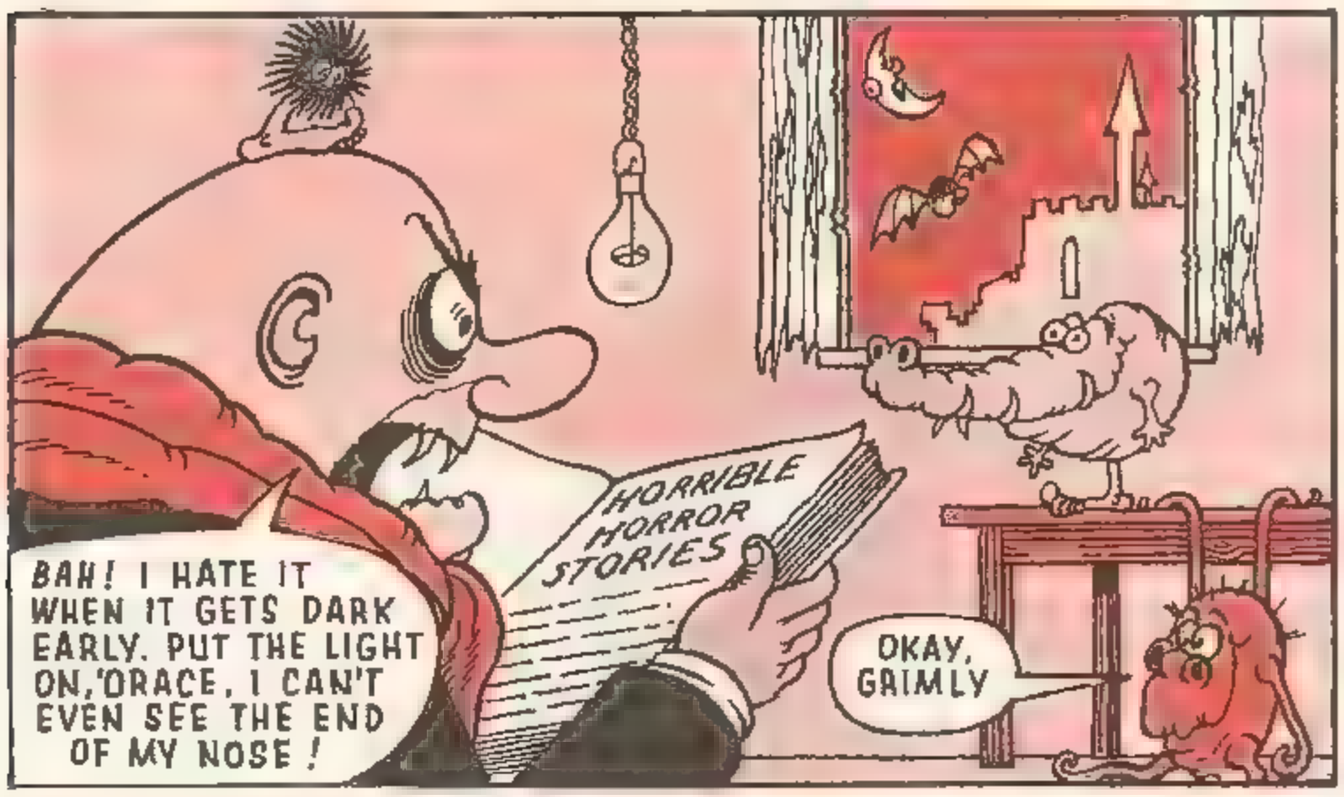
WHY IS IT THAT EVERYONE I FIGHT IS OVERFLOWING WITH NEUROTIC HOSTILITY?!!
YOU MUST BE MAD --TALKING THAT WAY WHILE YOU BATTLE FOR YOUR LIFE!

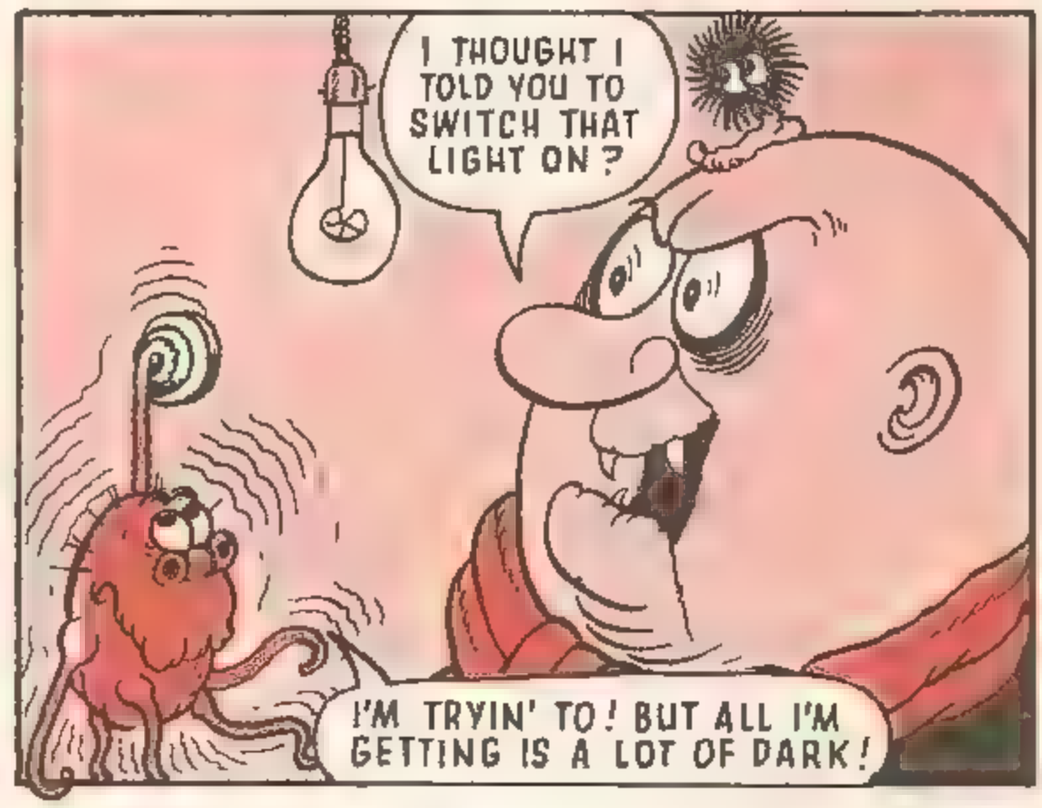
I MUST BE MAD TO BE IN THIS LINE OF ENDEAVOUR IN THE FIRST PLACE!
UNNHHHH!

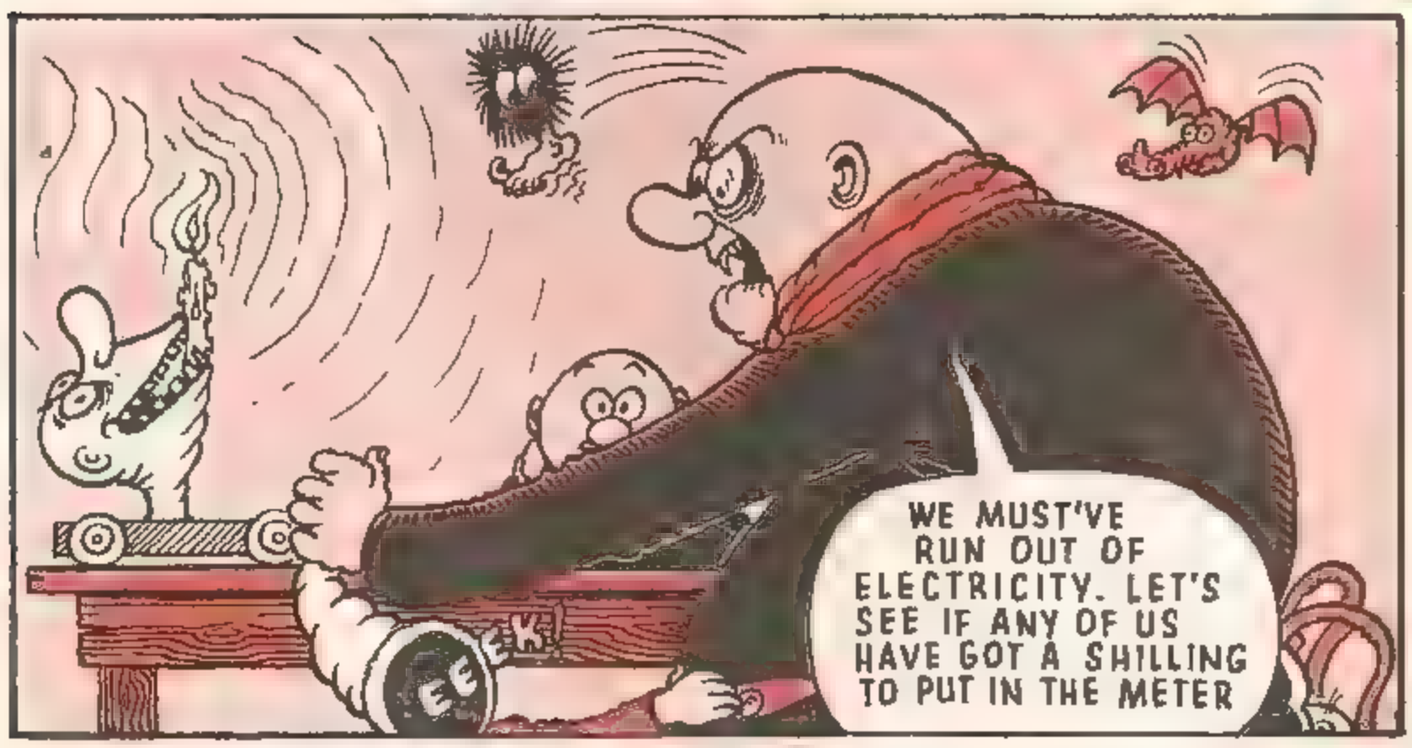
I'M NOT EVEN ENTITLED TO FRINGE BENEFITS! I DON'T GET SOCIAL SECURITY--OR PAID VACATIONS--OR EVEN A CHRISTMAS BONUS!
BUT, IT HAS ITS COMPENSATIONS! I GET LOTS OF FRESH AIR, AND I'M MY OWN BOSS! SAY, I'M NOT BORING YOU, AM I?
SON OF A GUN! I THINK HE FELL ASLEEP ON ME!

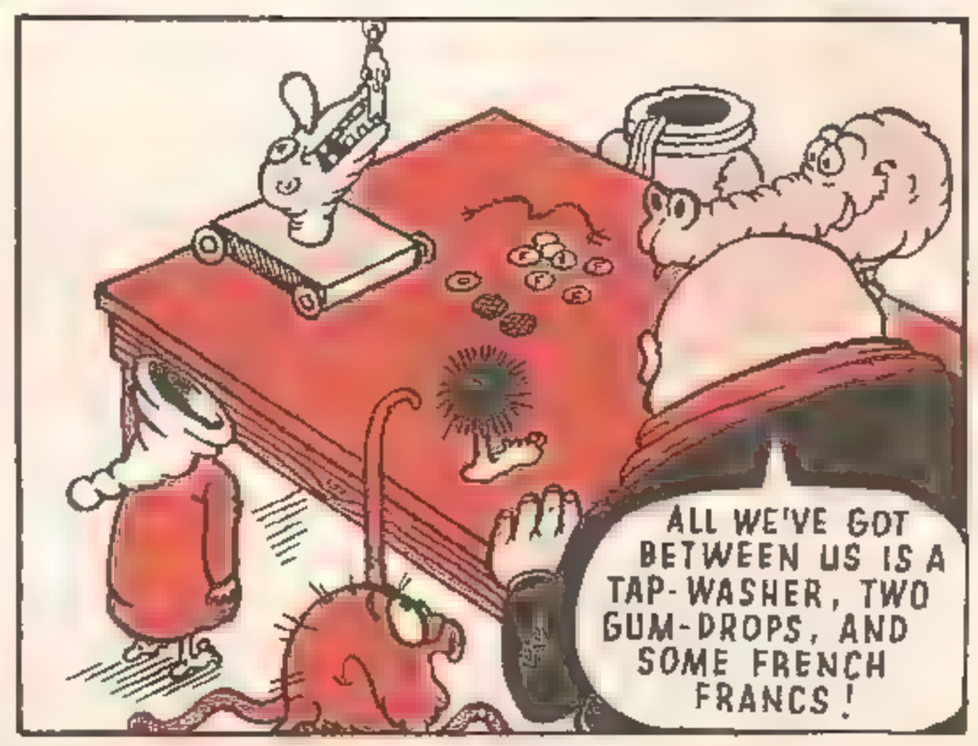
FOR MORE THRILL-PACKED PICTURE STRIPS TURN TO PAGE 67

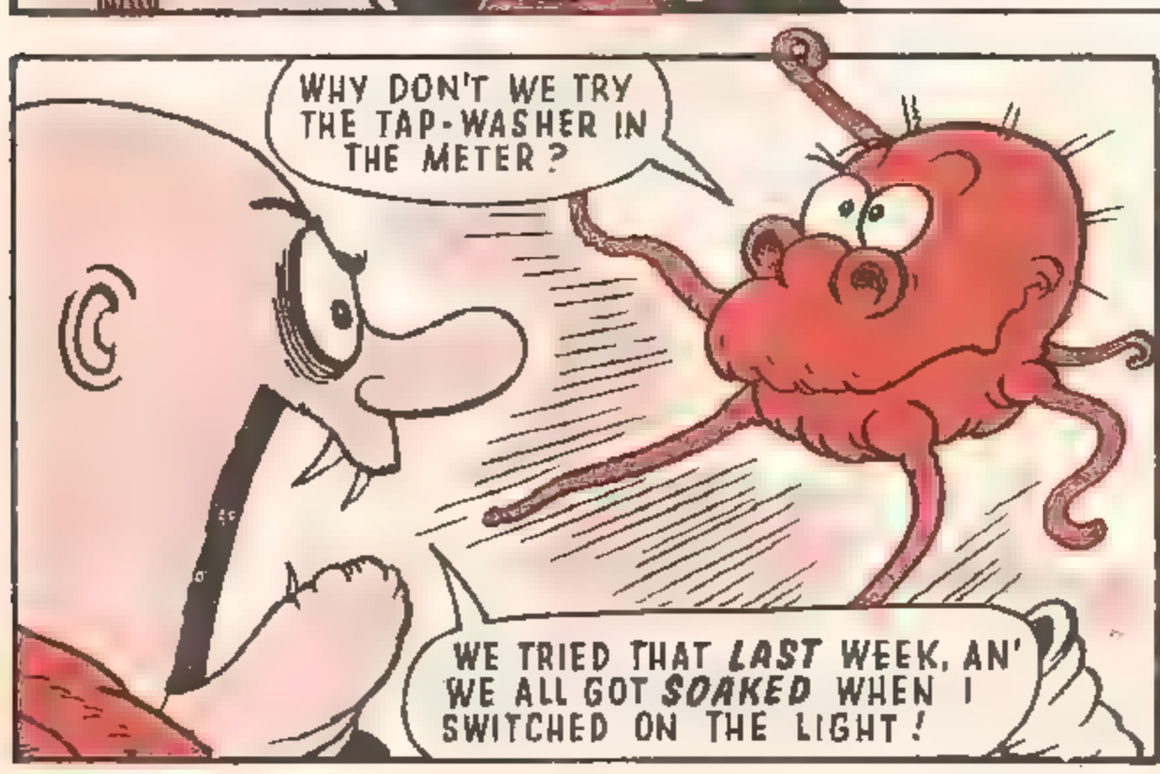
grimly feendish

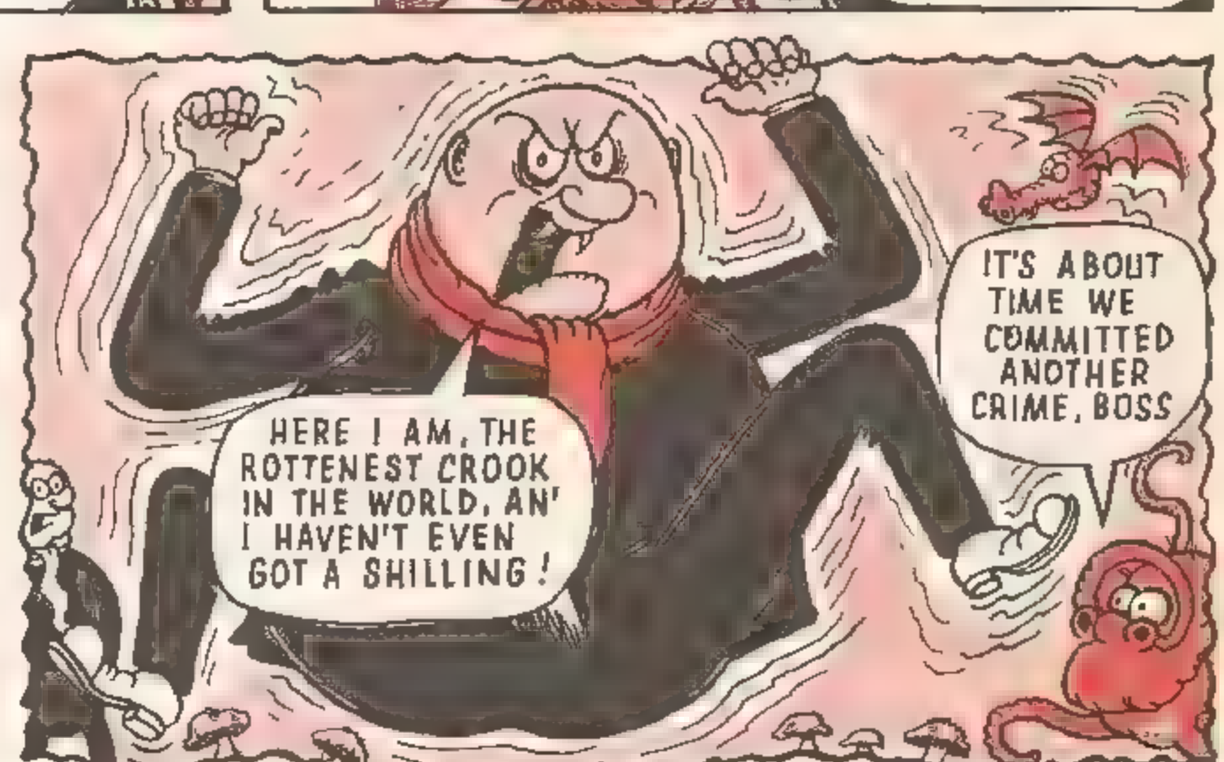


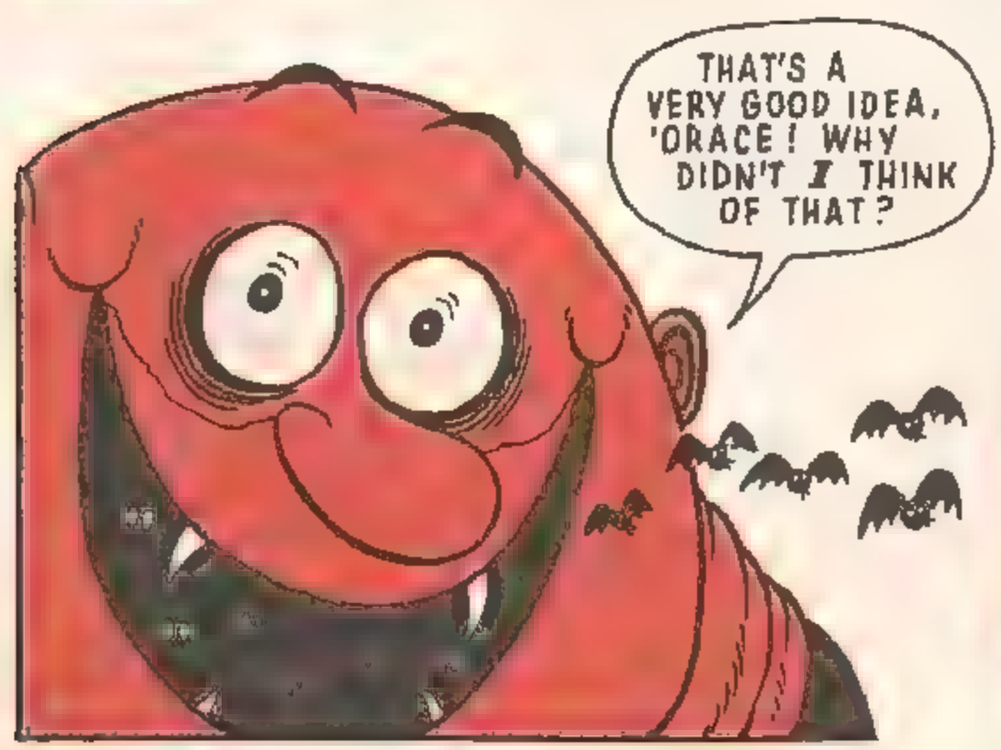












THERE'S THE BANK OF ENGLAND
BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET IN?
SIMPLE! WE'RE GOING TO TUNNEL FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD HERE, RIGHT UNDER THE WALL INTO THE SHILLING VAULTS!
BUT WON'T PEOPLE NOTICE US DIGGING A TUNNEL IN THE ROAD, BOSS?
CERTAINLY NOT! I HAD THE FORETHOUGHT TO PROVIDE DISGUISES FOR *ALL* OF US
THERE! NOW NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *US* AND *REAL* BRITISH WORKMEN!
COR! YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE ALF GARNET!
DANGER
WORK
LOOK OUT, LADS! HERE COMES A COPPER
ULP!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANY OL' POLICEMAN IN THIS SUPERB DISGUISE
WOTCHER, MATES... WHAT'RE YOU DIGGIN' FOR?
ER... THE LORD MAYOR'S COMPLAINED THAT ELECTRICITY IS LEAKING INTO HIS GAS MAIN...
...WITH *SHOCKING* RESULTS
GOOD, LADS... WE'VE GOTTA KEEP THE LORD MAYOR HAPPY!
QUICK, BOYS! START DIGGING BEFORE ANOTHER COPPER COMES ALONG WHO KNOWS THAT THE LORD MAYOR IS OUT OF TOWN!

HOW DO *YOU* KNOW THE LORD MAYOR'S OUT OF TOWN?

SIMPLE! I TIED HIM TO A SPACE ROCKET, ONLY LAST WEEK!

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THIS SHOULD BE THE FLOOR OF THE SHILLING VAULT

YIPPEE! FREE LIGHT AN' ELECTRICITY FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES... IF WE LIVE THAT LONG!

WE'RE GOIN' TO MAKE A MINT OF MONEY OUT OF THIS

YEAH! AN' *THAT* LOOKS LIKE THE MINT WITH THE *HOLE!* *HEE-HEE-HEE!*

CRA-A-ASH!

TINKLE-TINKLE-TINKLE!

OOER!

YIPPEE!

GROAN! I NEVER REALISED I WOULD FIND IT SO UNCOMFORTABLE TO BE HIT ON THE HEAD BY A MILLION POUNDS WORTH OF SHILLINGS!

WE'VE MADE IT! BILLIONS OF BOBS!

OKAY, BOSS... I'LL NIP DOWN THE OTHER END

I'LL FILL THESE SACKS AN' YOU LOT CAN PASS THEM BACK DOWN TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE TUNNEL

SHILLINGS

SHILLINGS

THAT'S THE LOT... NOW WE'LL GO BACK DOWN THE TUNNEL AND SEE WHAT SORT OF A JOB 'ORACE HAS MADE OF STACKING THEM UP

OKAY, GRIMLY!

EEK! WHERE'VE ALL THOSE SHILLINGS GONE?

WHERE'S THE RESULT OF ALL OUR LABOURS?

ER... I'M SORRY, BOSS, BUT I GOT HUNGRY AN' I ***ATE*** 'EM!

BUT YOU CAN'T EAT ***SHILLINGS***! GIBBER-GIBBER!

OH, YES I CAN ... THEY WERE ABSOLUTELY ***DELICIOUS***!

COME ON, LADS! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ***SHAKE*** THE MONEY OUT OF HIM!

WE'LL HAVE TO SHAKE... REAL HARD!

RATTLE!

RATTLE!

DOER! S-S-STOP IT! Y-Y-Y-OU'RE GIVING ME INDIGESTION!

GROAN! HE'S SCOFFED THE LOT, ALL EXCEPT FOR ONE MOULDY BOB!

TINKLE!

EVEN THIS HAS BEEN ***CHEWED***! GRRRRRRR!

LATER...

WHAT'RE WE GOIN' TO DO NOW? WE STILL AIN'T GOT NO LIGHT

DAZZLING IDEA!

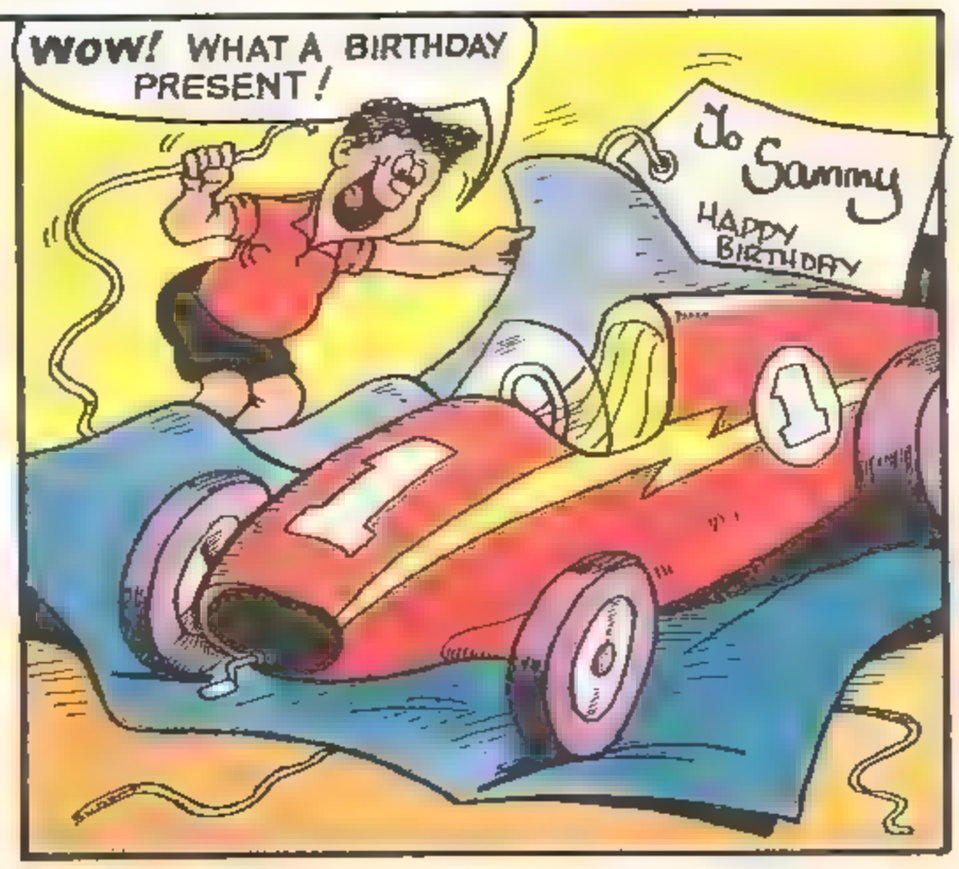
I FEAR THAT HIS IDEA BODES ILL FOR POOR LITTLE ME!

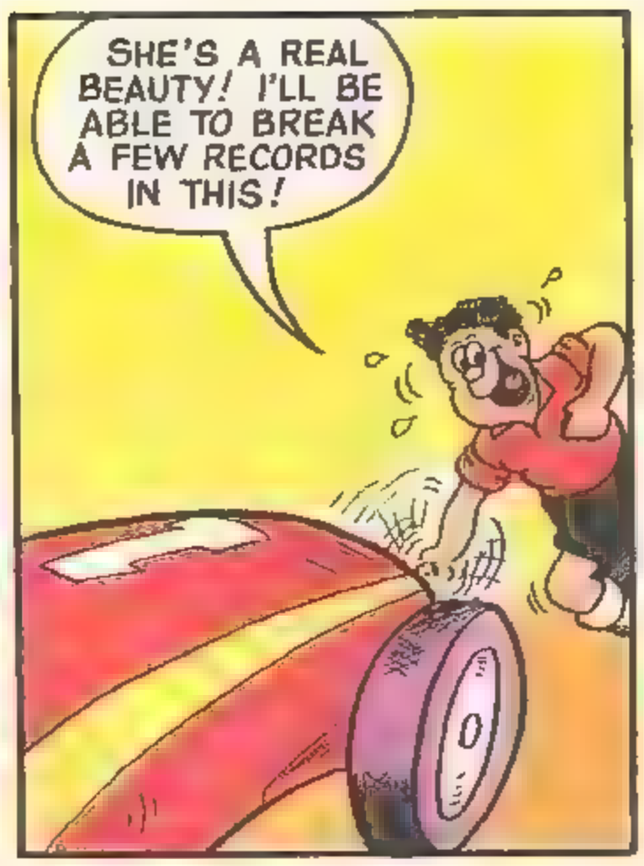
HOW LONG HAVE I GOT TO HANG AROUND UP HERE?

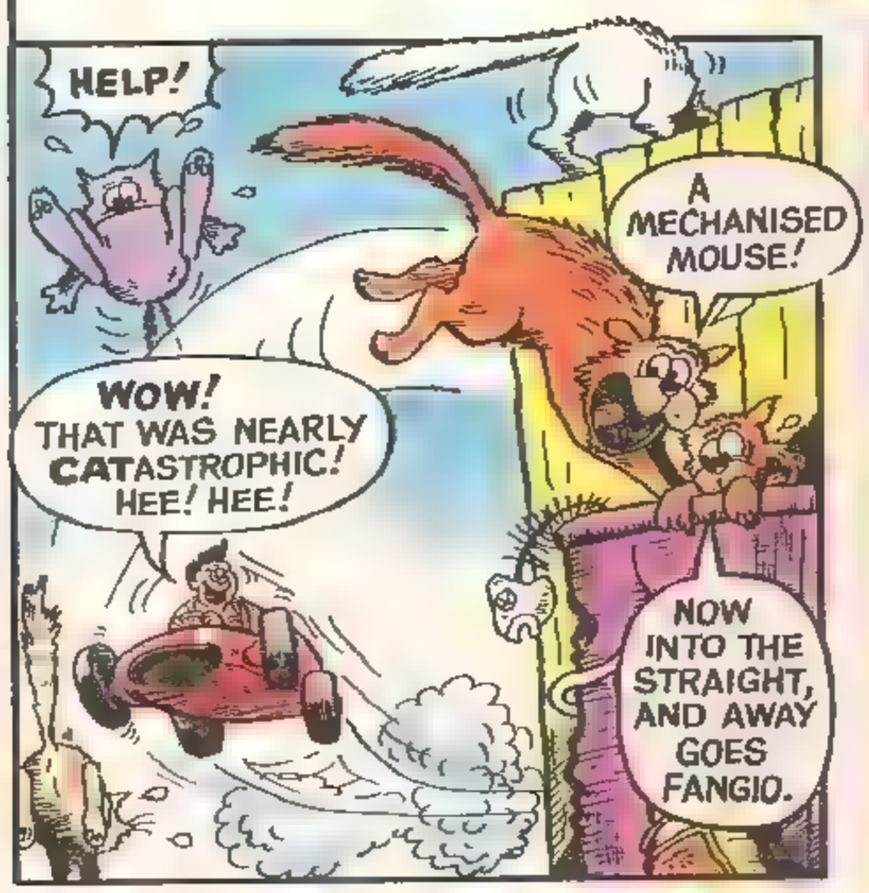
OLD 'ORACE MAKES A SMASHING CANDELABRA!

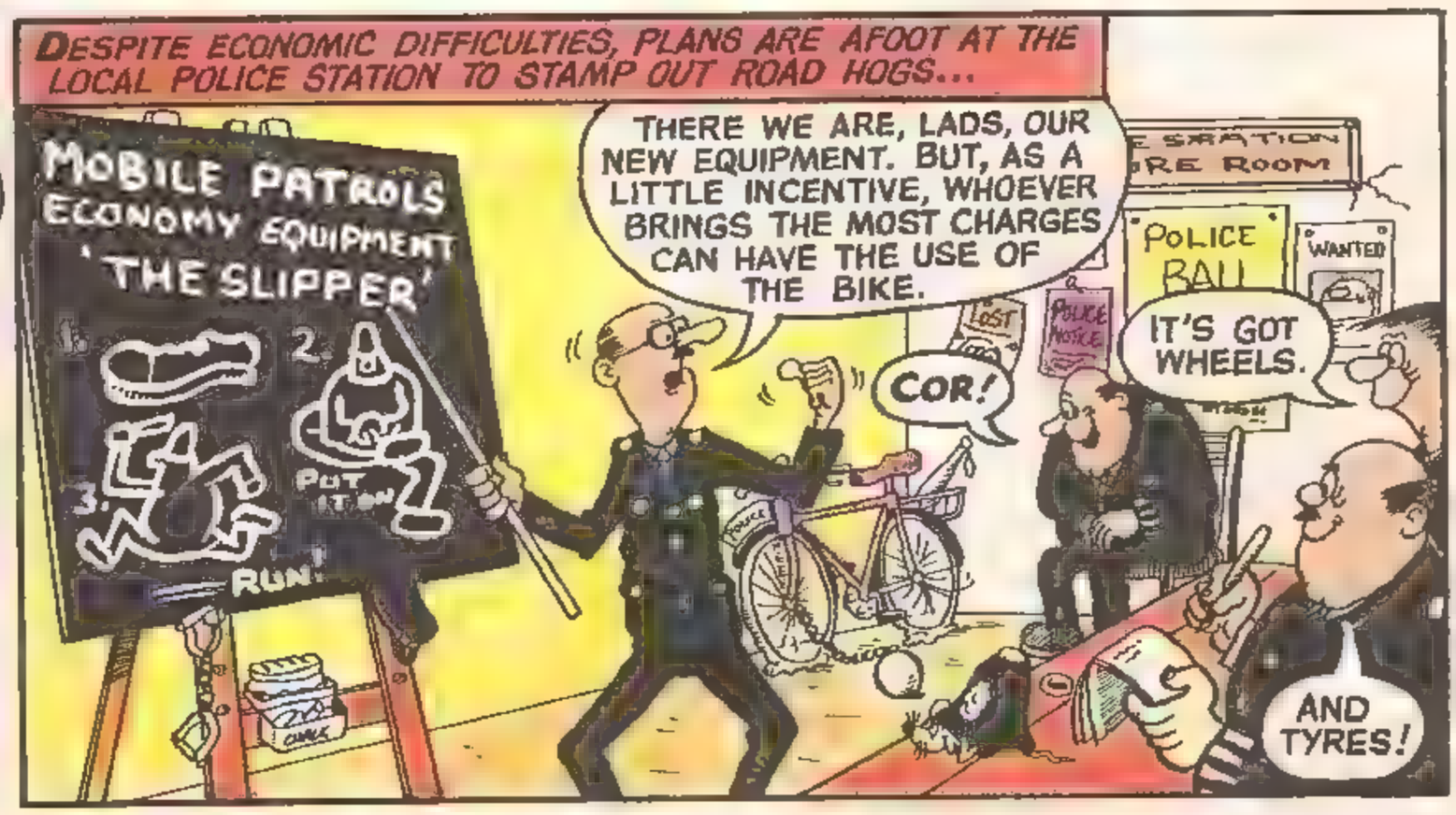
UNTIL YOU'VE GIVEN US LIGHT TO THE EQUIVALENT OF A ***MILLION POUNDS WORTH OF SHILLINGS***!

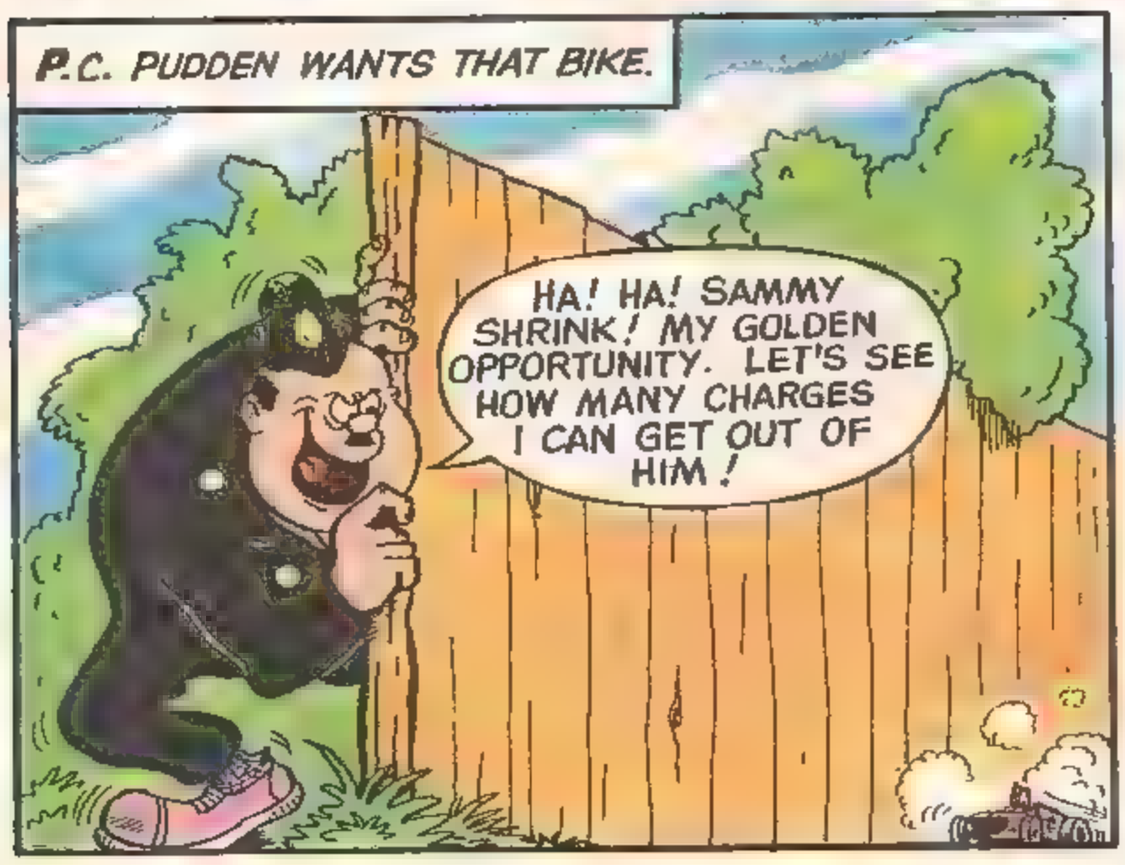
SAMMY SHRINK

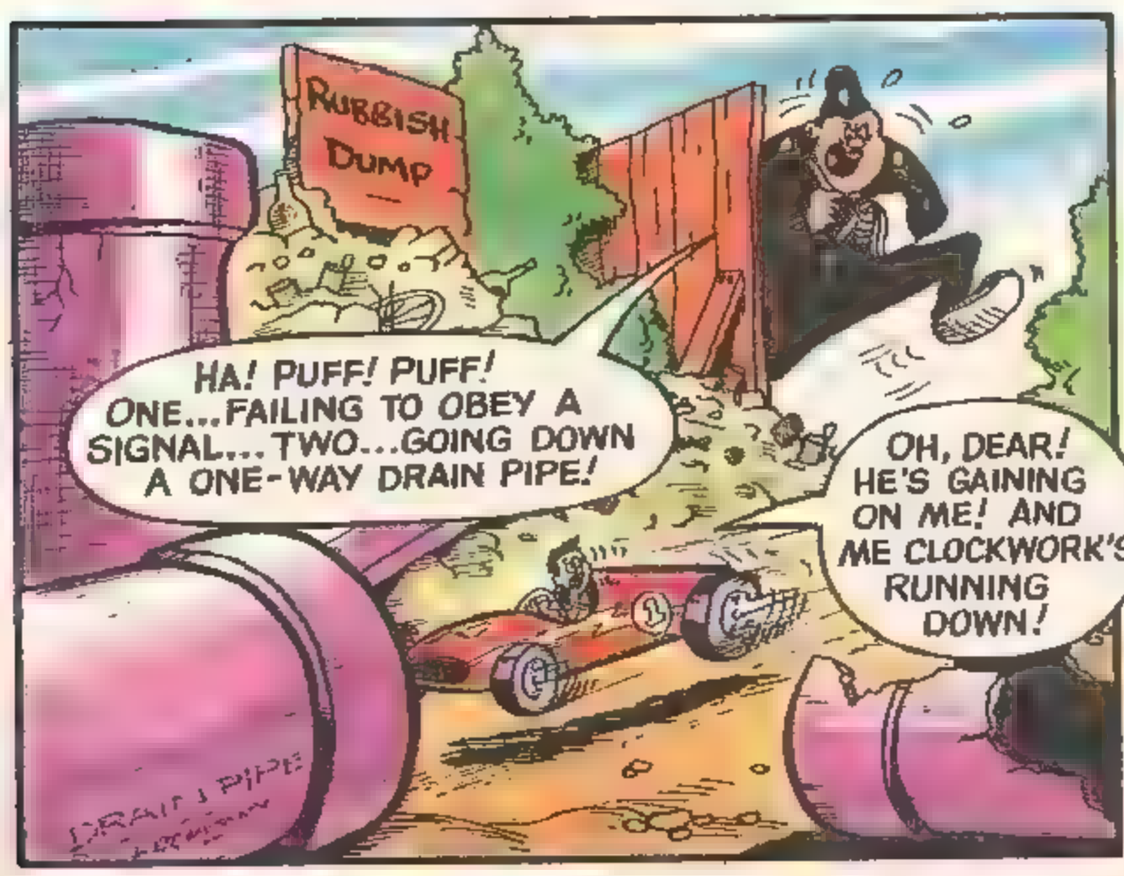


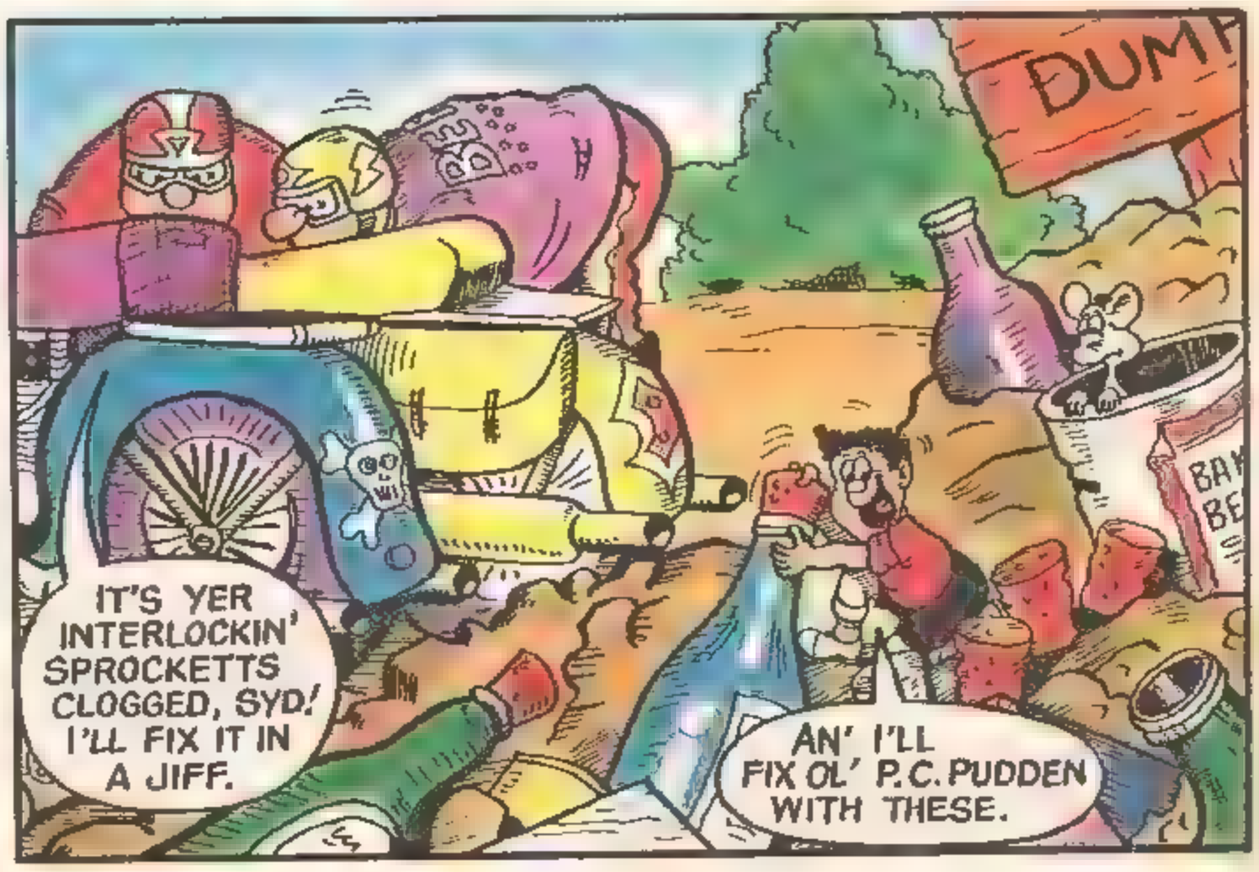


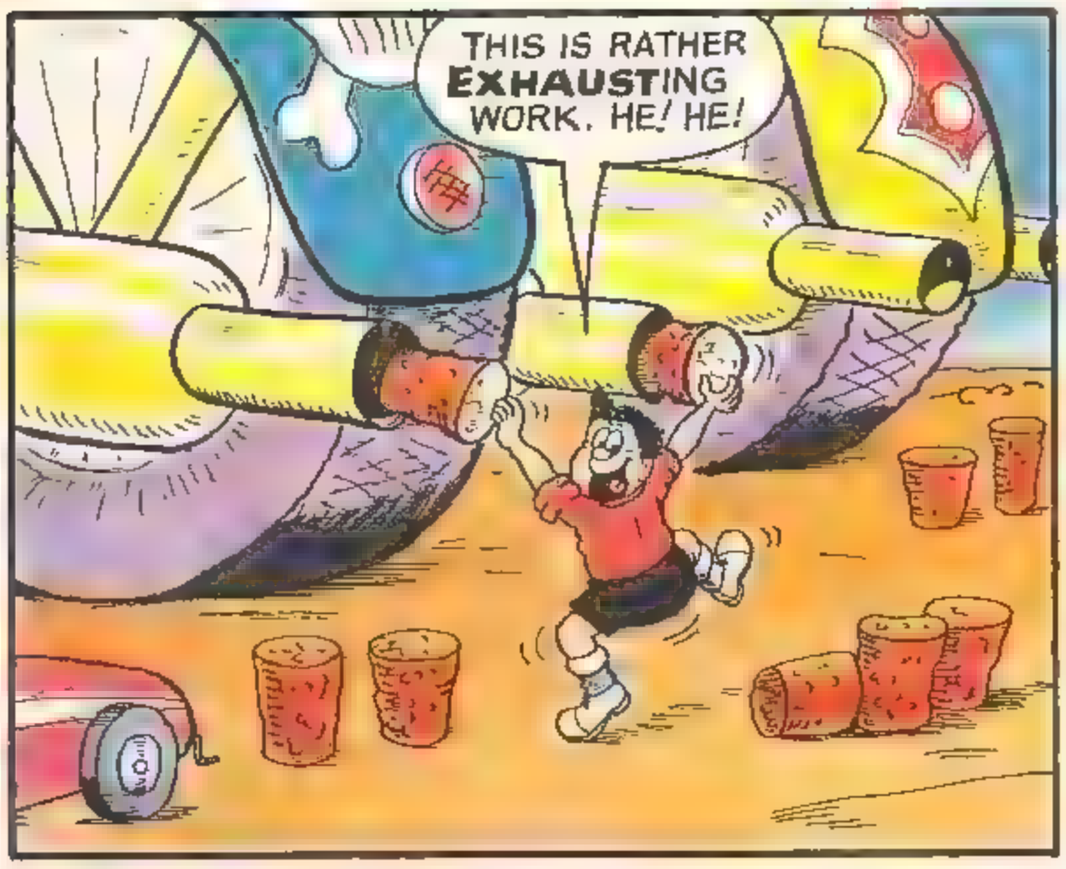


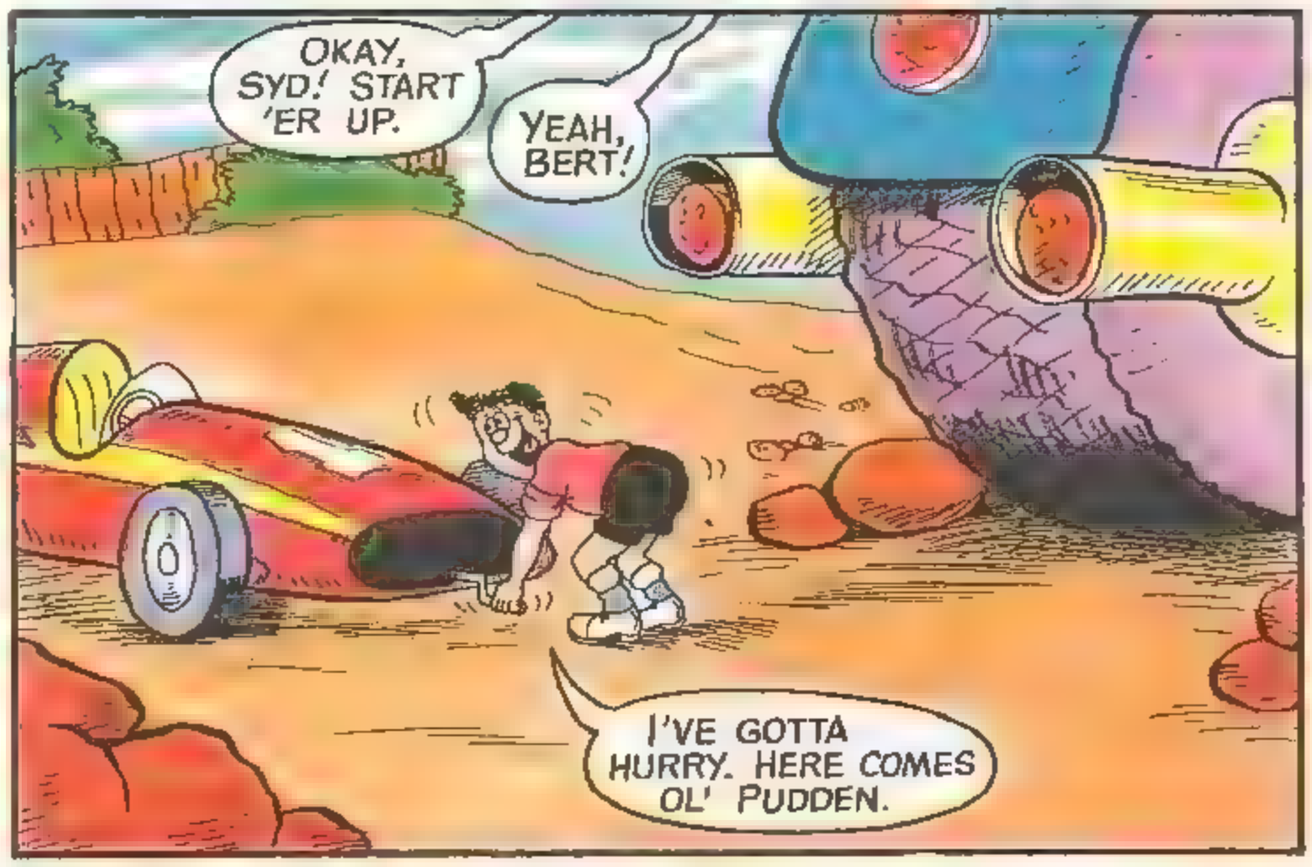


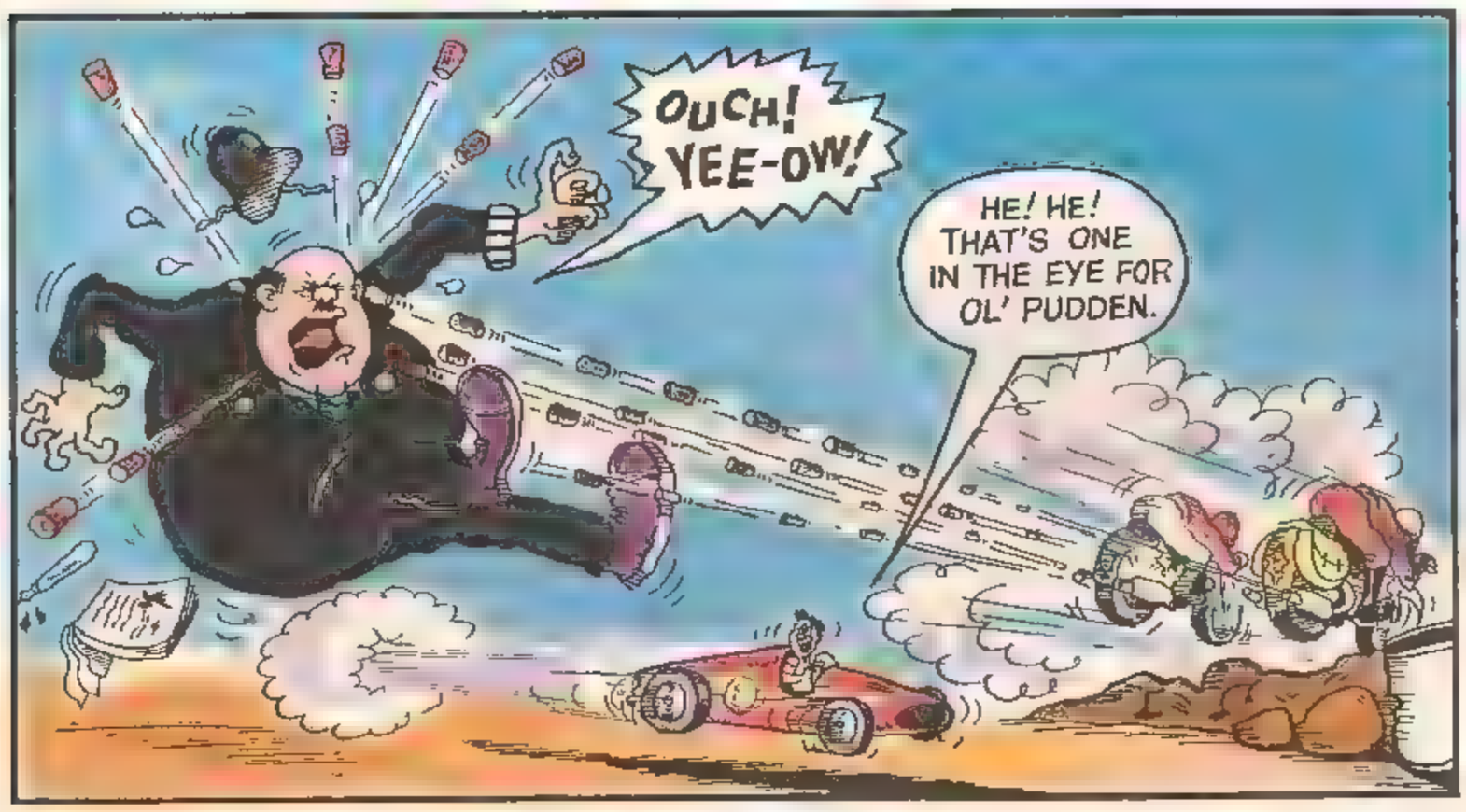


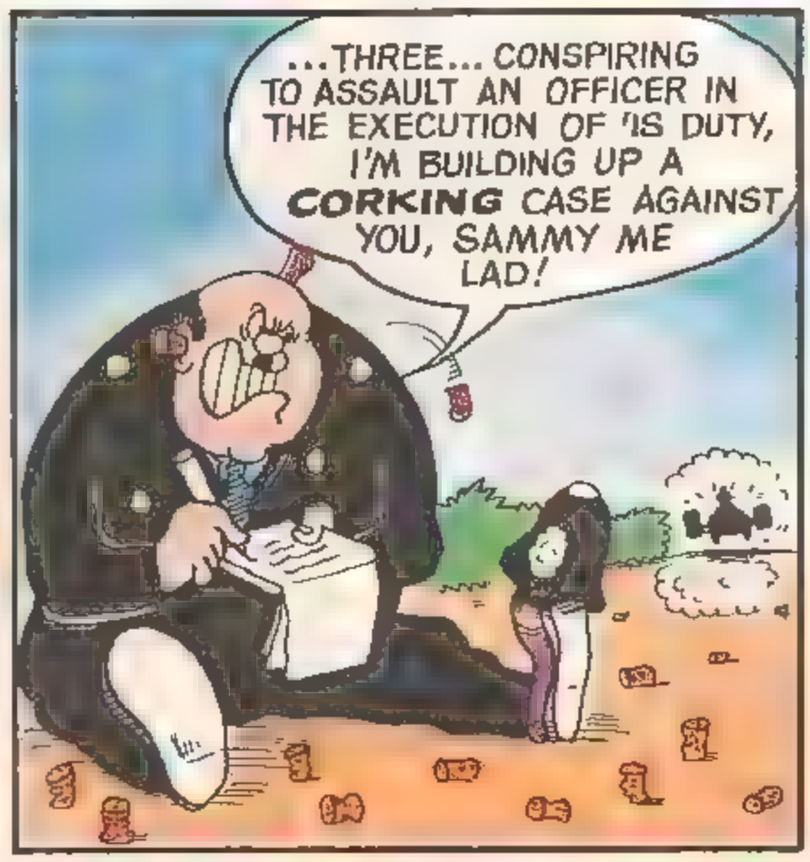





THIS IS RATHER EXHAUSTING WORK. HE! HE!

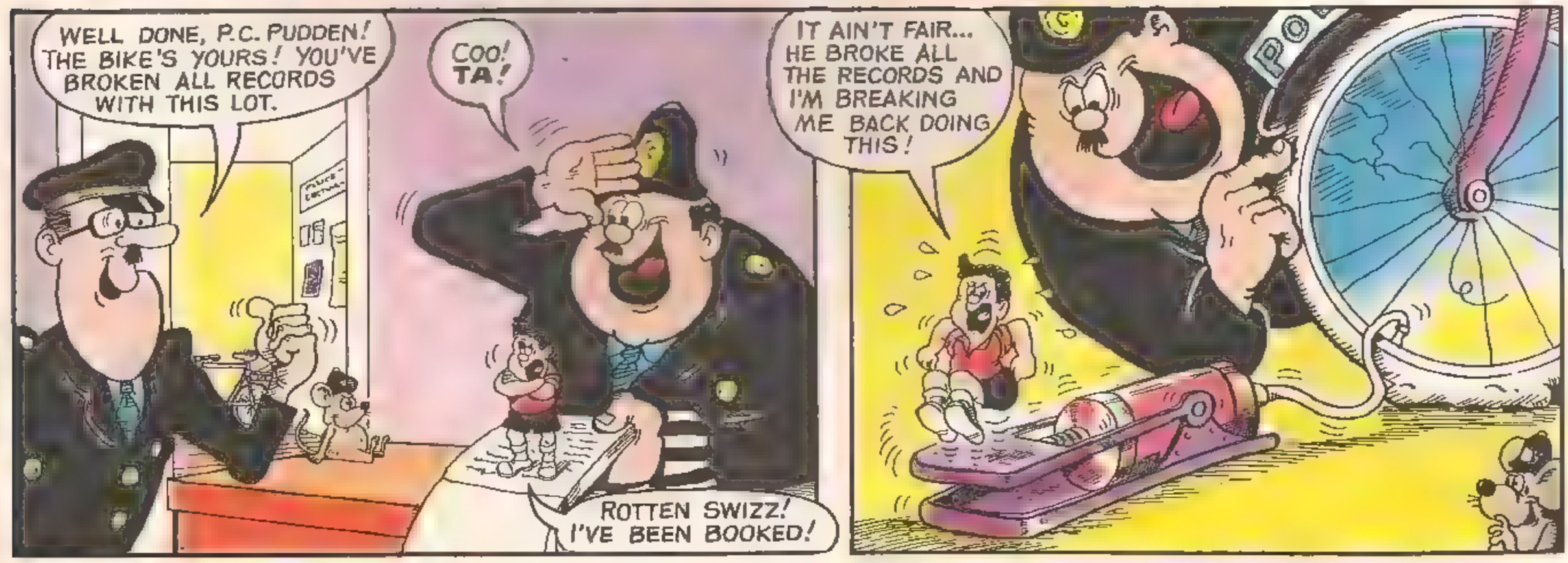

OKAY, SYD! START 'ER UP.
YEAH, BERT!
I'VE GOTTA HURRY. HERE COMES OL' PUDDEN.


OUCH! YEE-OW!
HE! HE! THAT'S ONE IN THE EYE FOR OL' PUDDEN.


...THREE... CONSPIRING TO ASSAULT AN OFFICER IN THE EXECUTION OF 'IS DUTY, I'M BUILDING UP A CORKING CASE AGAINST YOU, SAMMY ME LAD!

NO PARKING
HA! HA! HE'S 'AD IT THIS TIME! NO ONE ESCAPES THE NET OF THE LAW FOR EVER.

...FOUR...PARKING. HA! HA! GOTCHA AT LAST, YOU LITTLE SHRIMP!
BAH! T'AIN'T FAIR!


WELL DONE, P.C. PUDDEN! THE BIKE'S YOURS! YOU'VE BROKEN ALL RECORDS WITH THIS LOT.
COO! TA!
ROTTEN SWIZZ! I'VE BEEN BOOKED!
IT AIN'T FAIR... HE BROKE ALL THE RECORDS AND I'M BREAKING ME BACK DOING THIS!

The FABULOUS *FANTASTIC FOUR* EXPERIENCE A GREAT TRAGEDY, IN THE...

"Death Of A HERO!"

AS OUR GREAT BOOK LENGTH TALE BEGINS, WE FIND THE BRILLIANT REED RICHARDS ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE THE *THING* BACK TO HUMAN FORM... PERMANENTLY!

Introducing THE SURPRISE VILLAIN OF THE SEASON! DEADLY, MYSTERIOUS... The INVINCIBLE MAN! (CAN YOU GUESS WHO HE IS??)

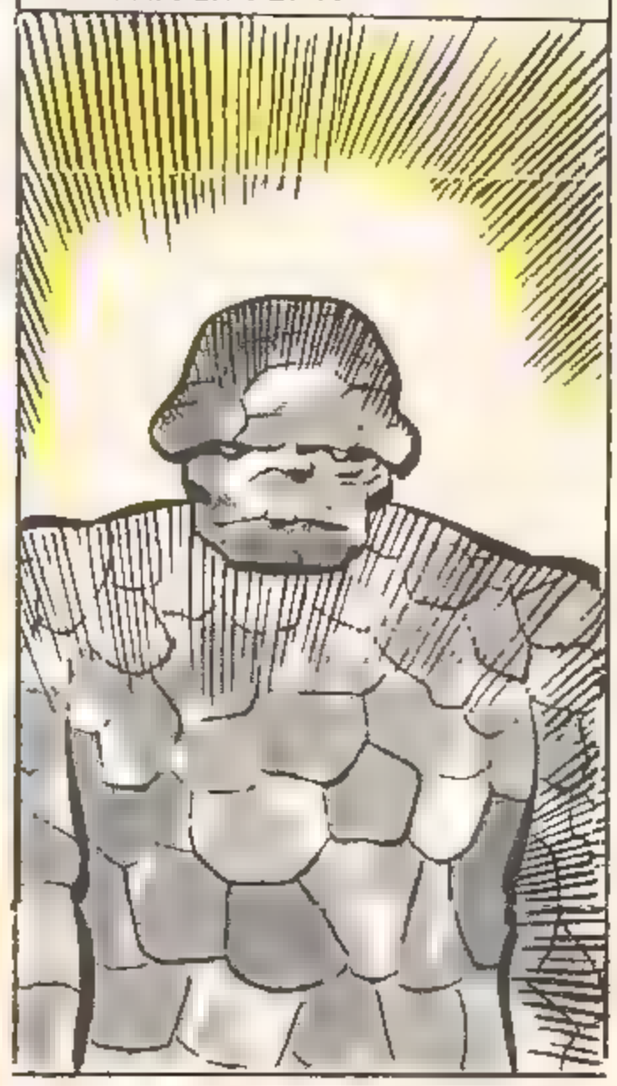
ALL CONTROLS READY FOR OPERATION, REED!

WHO DESIGNED THIS WACKY CONTRAPTION FOR YOU...RUBE GOLDBERG? I FEEL LIKE A PRIZE *NUT* IN HERE!

QUIET, BEN! I'M ABOUT TO SWITCH IT ON! GOOD LUCK OLD FRIEND!

ONLY *REED* WOULD DARE TRY TO HELP BEN BY ALTERING THE MICRO-ELECTRIC WAVES OF HIS BODY! I SURE HOPE IT WORKS!

AND SO, WITH A SILENT PRAYER, THE FABULOUS *MR. FANTASTIC* ACTIVATES HIS COMPLEX ELECTRONIC MACHINE, AS THE POWERFUL *THING* SITS MOTIONLESS, NOT KNOWING WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT!

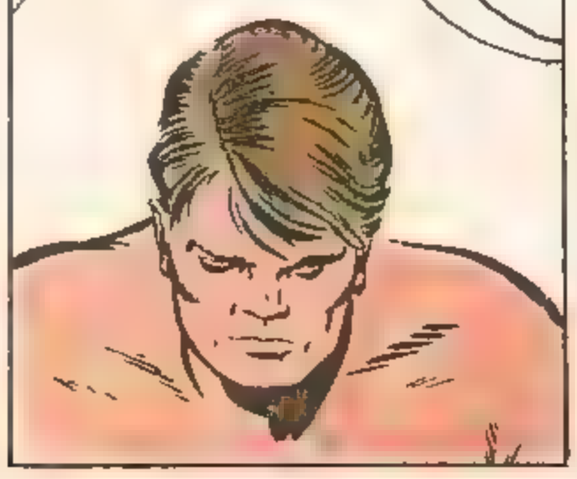


THEN, THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH OF MANY-HUED LIGHTS...

AND, WHEN THE GLARE HAS FADED...

YOU'VE *DONE* IT, REED! HE'S *BEN GRIMM* AGAIN!

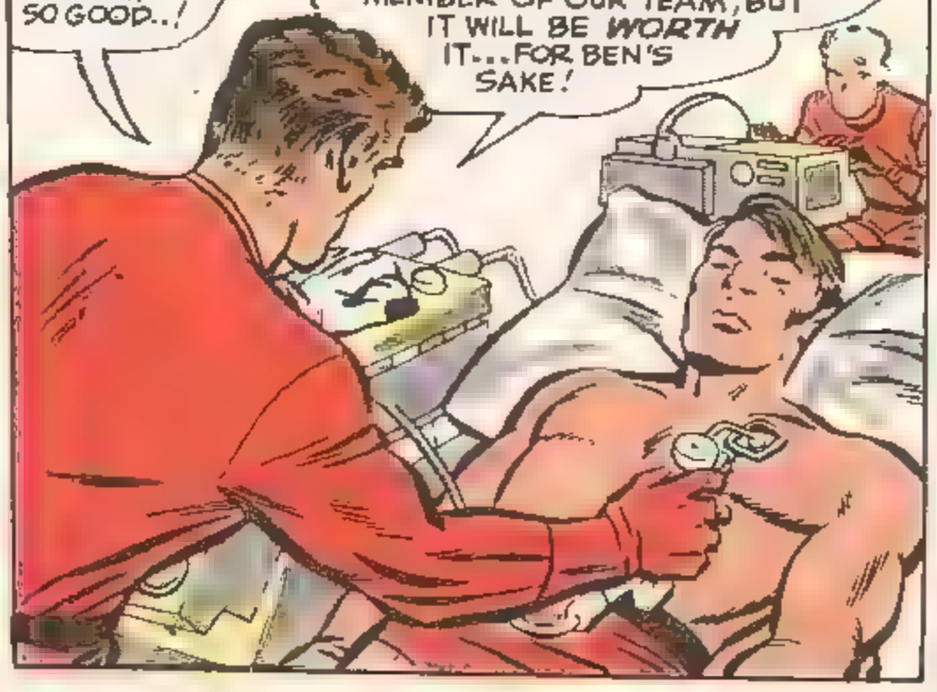
BUT THAT'S ONLY *HALF* THE PROBLEM! NOW WE HAVE TO SEE IF THE CHANGE WILL BE *PERMANENT*... AND IF THERE ARE ANY DANGEROUS *AFTER-EFFECTS!*



WORKING WITH ALL THE SKILL OF THE SCIENTIFIC GENIUS HE IS, REED FINDS...

PULSE NORMAL! HEART-BEAT STRONG! SO FAR, SO GOOD..!

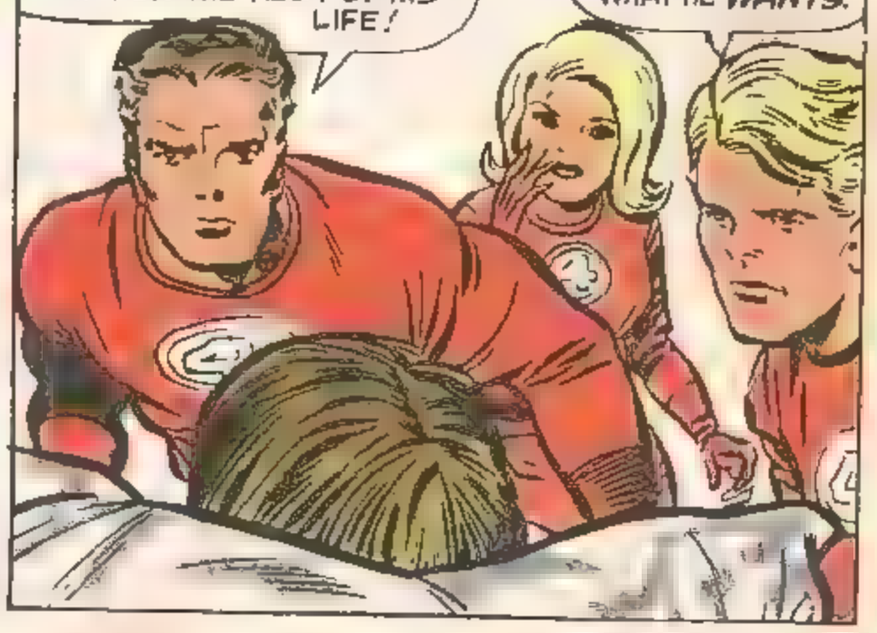
IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL, WE'LL HAVE LOST AN IRREPLACEABLE MEMBER OF OUR TEAM, BUT IT WILL BE *WORTH* IT...FOR BEN'S SAKE!



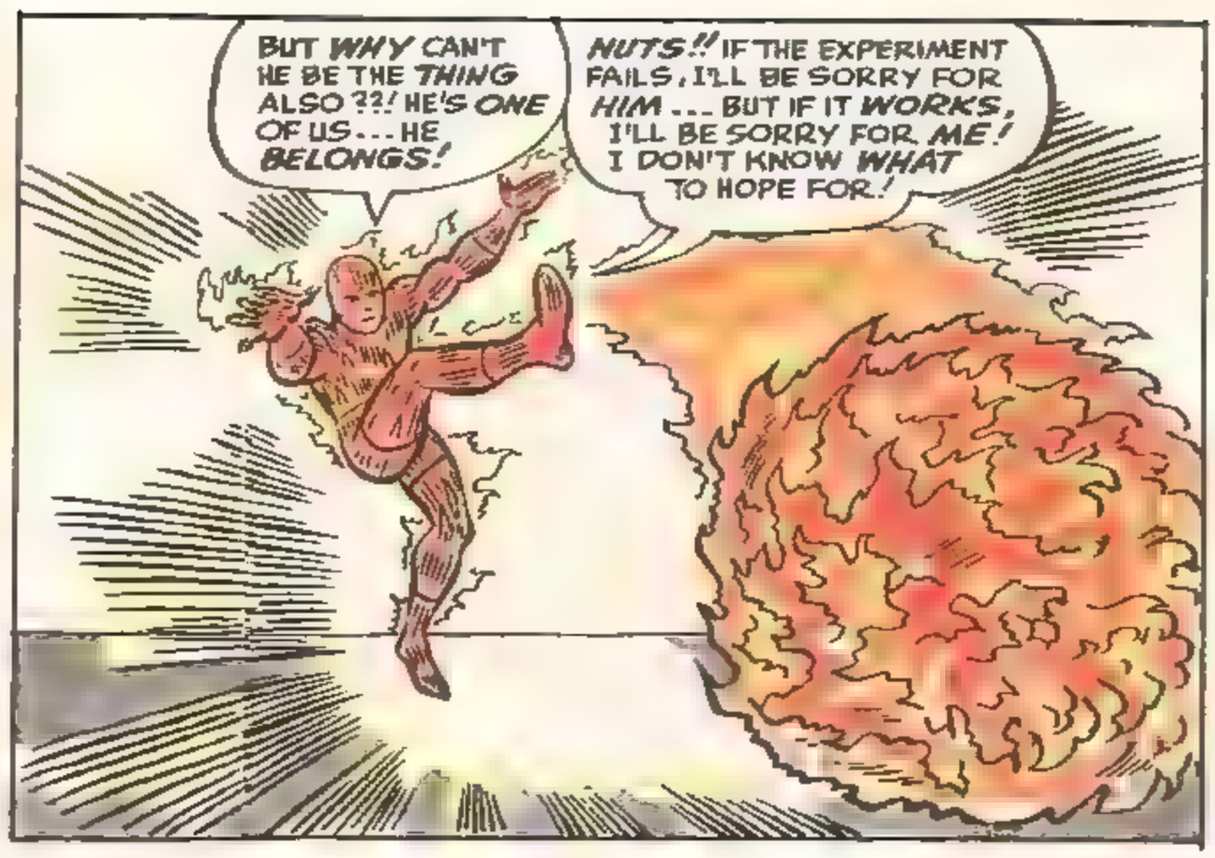
YOU MEAN...HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BECOME THE *THING* AGAIN??

THAT'S *RIGHT*, SUE! AFTER 24 HOURS, IF HE IS *STILL* BEN GRIMM, HE'LL REMAIN THAT WAY FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

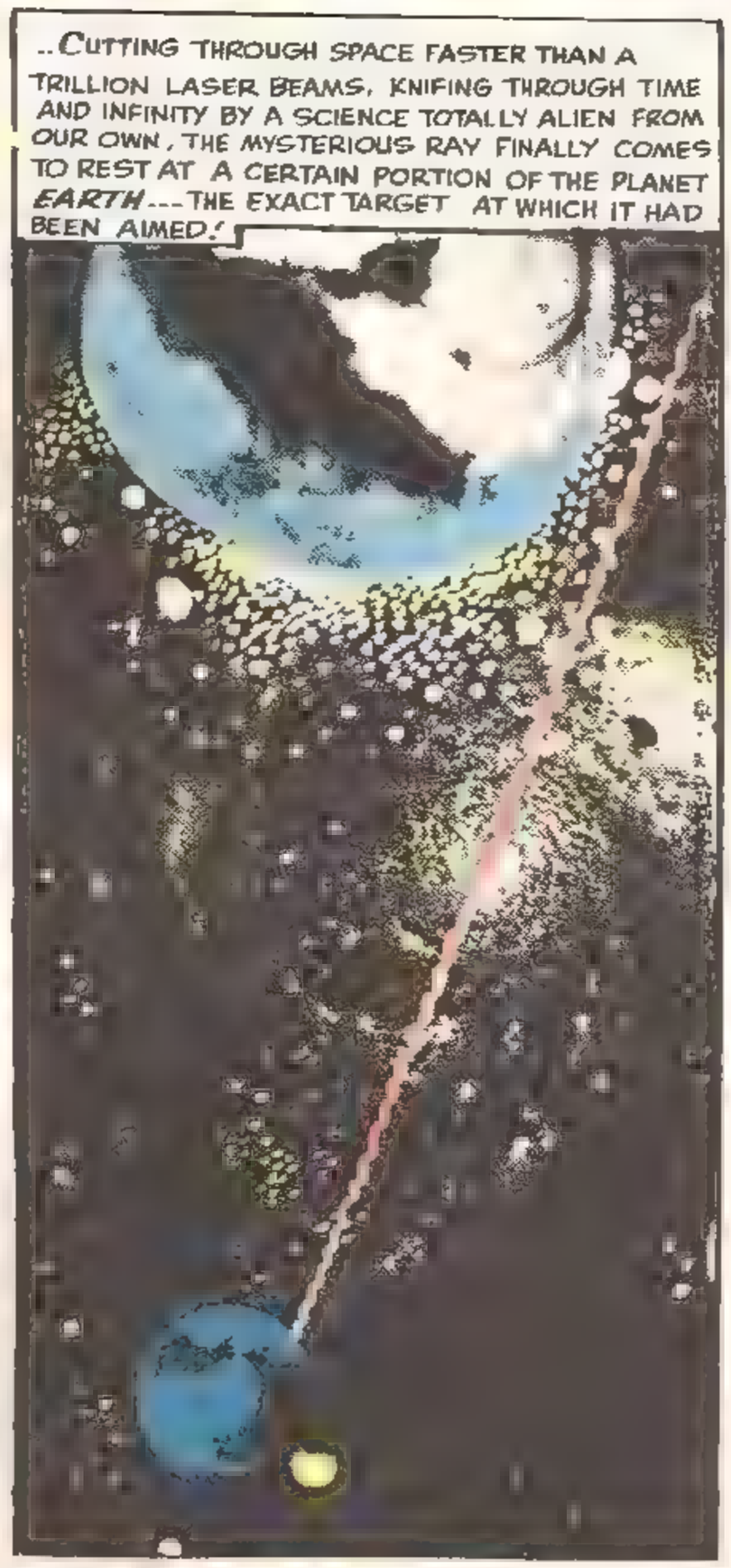
THEN HE CAN MARRY ALICIA... AND SETTLE DOWN! IF IT'S WHAT HE *WANTS!*

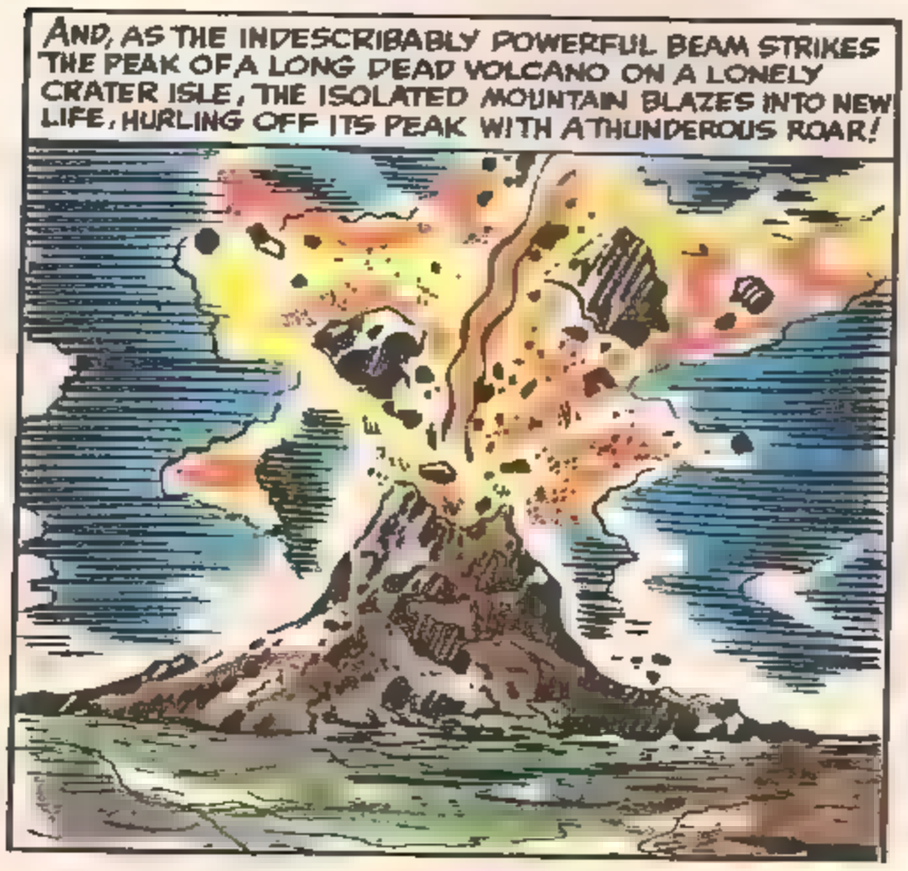


LET HIM REST NOW! WE'LL CHECK HIM AGAIN IN AN HOUR!
THINGS JUST WON'T SEEM THE SAME WITHOUT THE THING!!
HE'S MY BIG BUDDY... AND I WANT HIM TO BE NORMAL... TO MARRY THE GIRL HE LOVES..

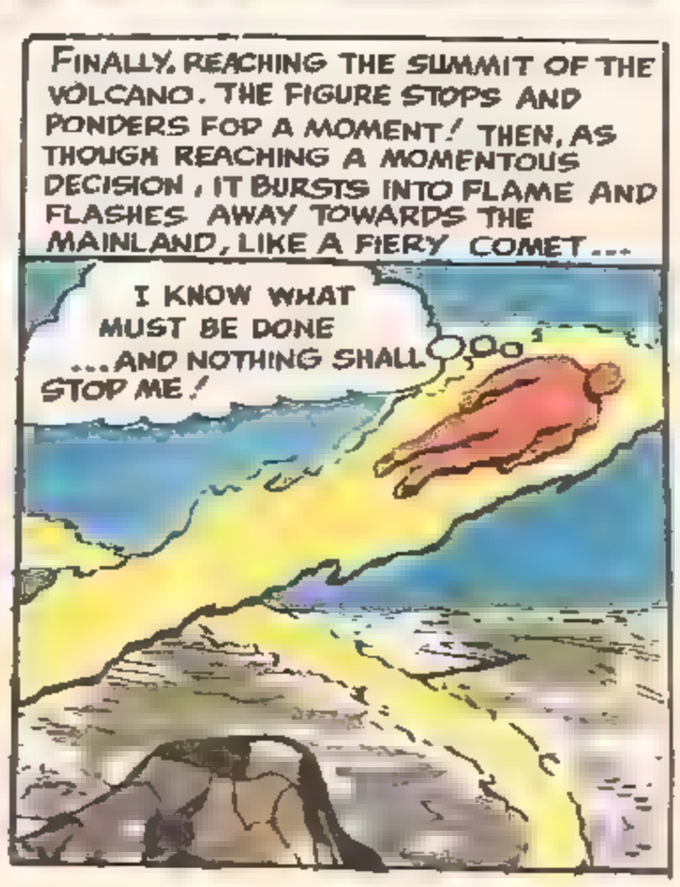

BUT WHY CAN'T HE BE THE THING ALSO ??! HE'S ONE OF US... HE BELONGS!
NUTS!! IF THE EXPERIMENT FAILS, I'LL BE SORRY FOR HIM... BUT IF IT WORKS, I'LL BE SORRY FOR ME! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO HOPE FOR!

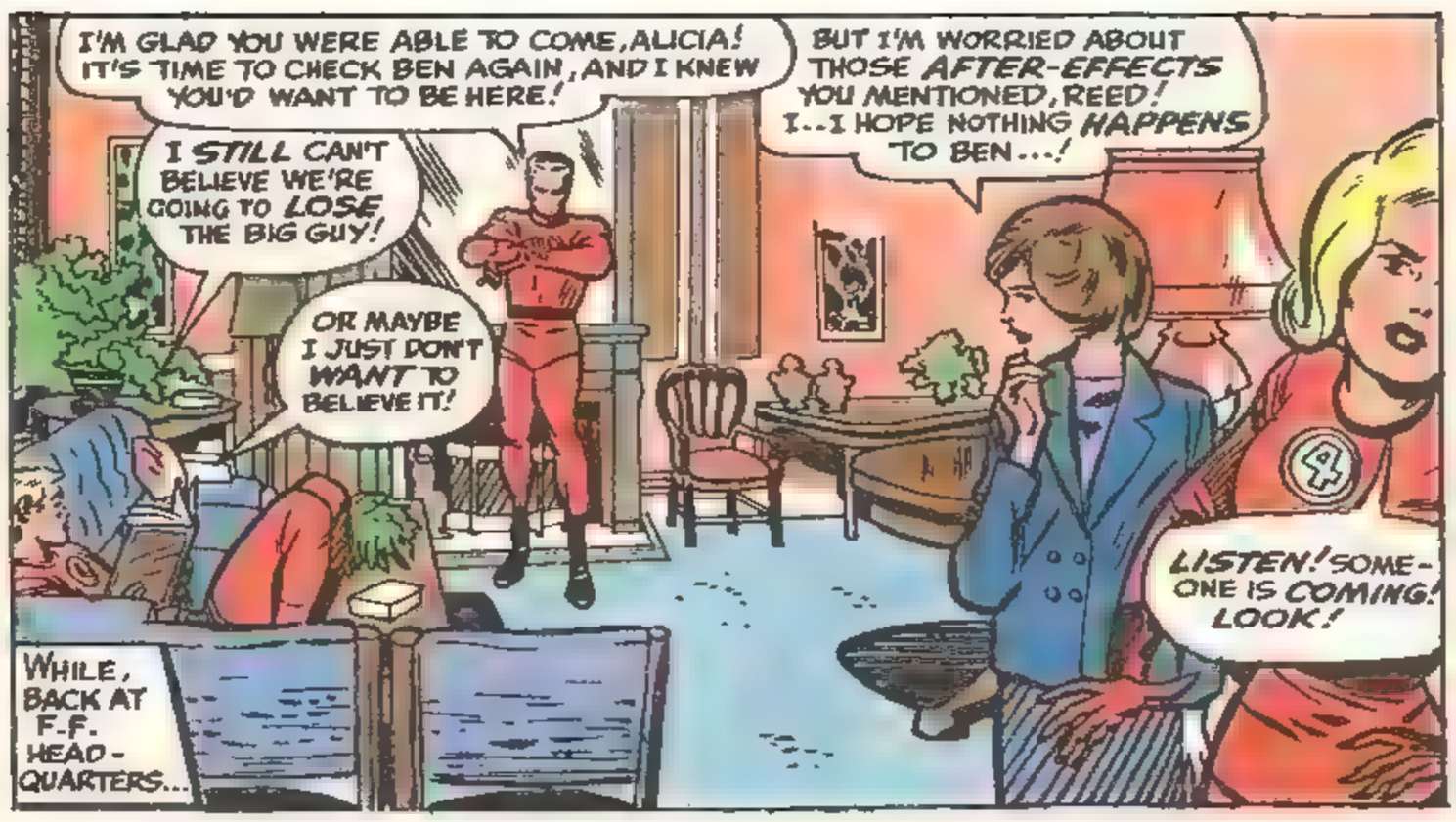
MEANWHILE COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS AWAY, IN A FAR DISTANT GALAXY A STRANGE SHIMMERING RAY SHOOTS OUT FROM A PLANET WHOSE NAME WE OF EARTH COULD NEVER EVEN LEARN TO PRONOUNCE...

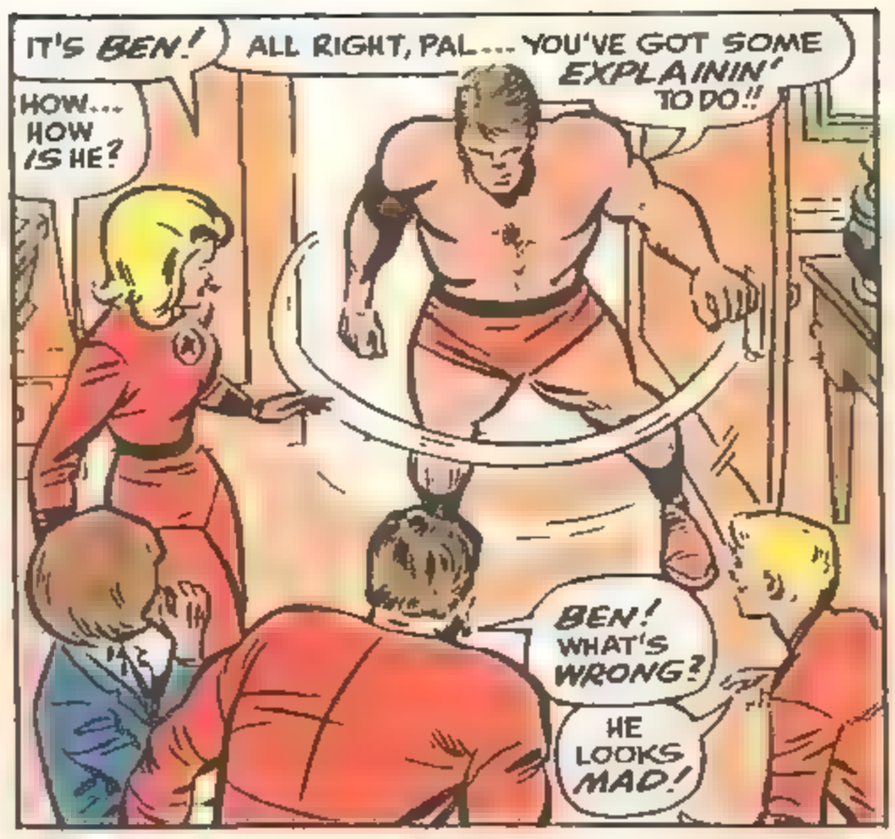

..CUTTING THROUGH SPACE FASTER THAN A TRILLION LASER BEAMS, KNIFING THROUGH TIME AND INFINITY BY A SCIENCE TOTALLY ALIEN FROM OUR OWN, THE MYSTERIOUS RAY FINALLY COMES TO REST AT A CERTAIN PORTION OF THE PLANET EARTH---THE EXACT TARGET AT WHICH IT HAD BEEN AIMED!

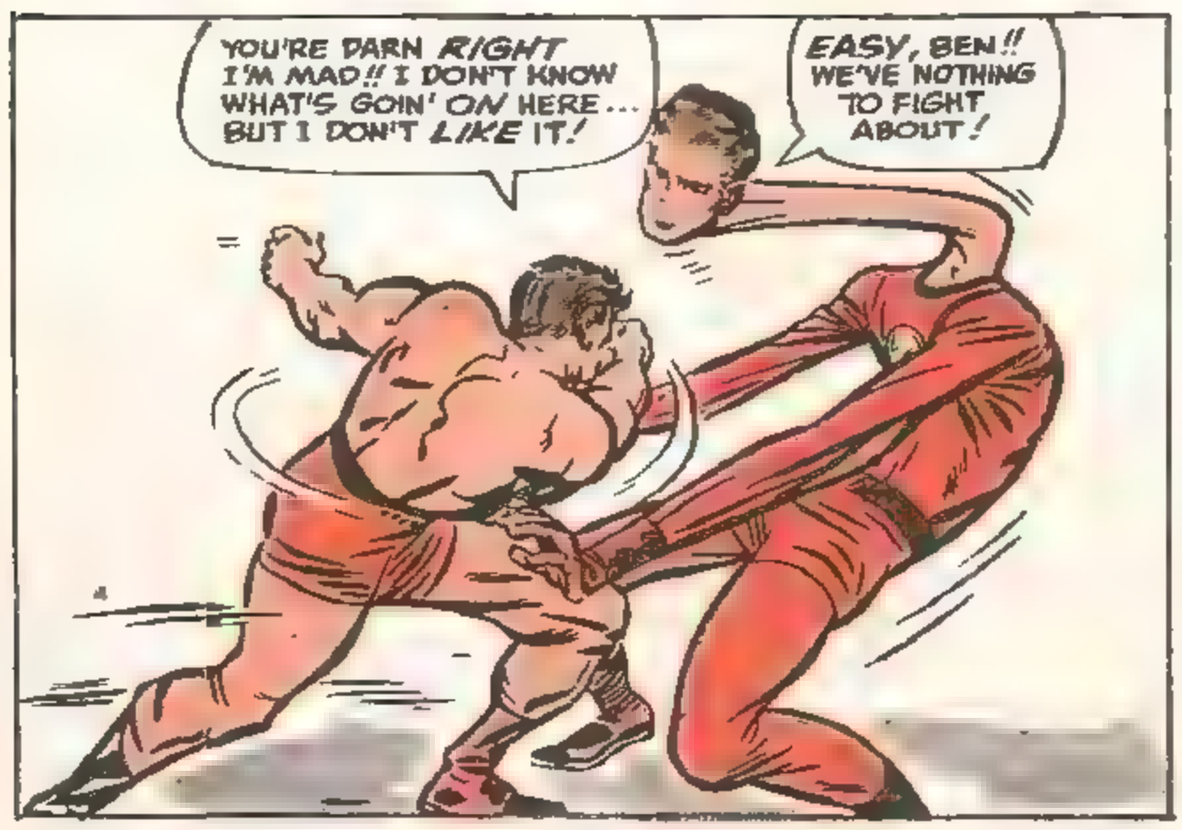

AND, AS THE INDESCRIBABLY POWERFUL BEAM STRIKES THE PEAK OF A LONG DEAD VOLCANO ON A LONELY CRATER ISLE, THE ISOLATED MOUNTAIN BLAZES INTO NEW LIFE, HURLING OFF ITS PEAK WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR!

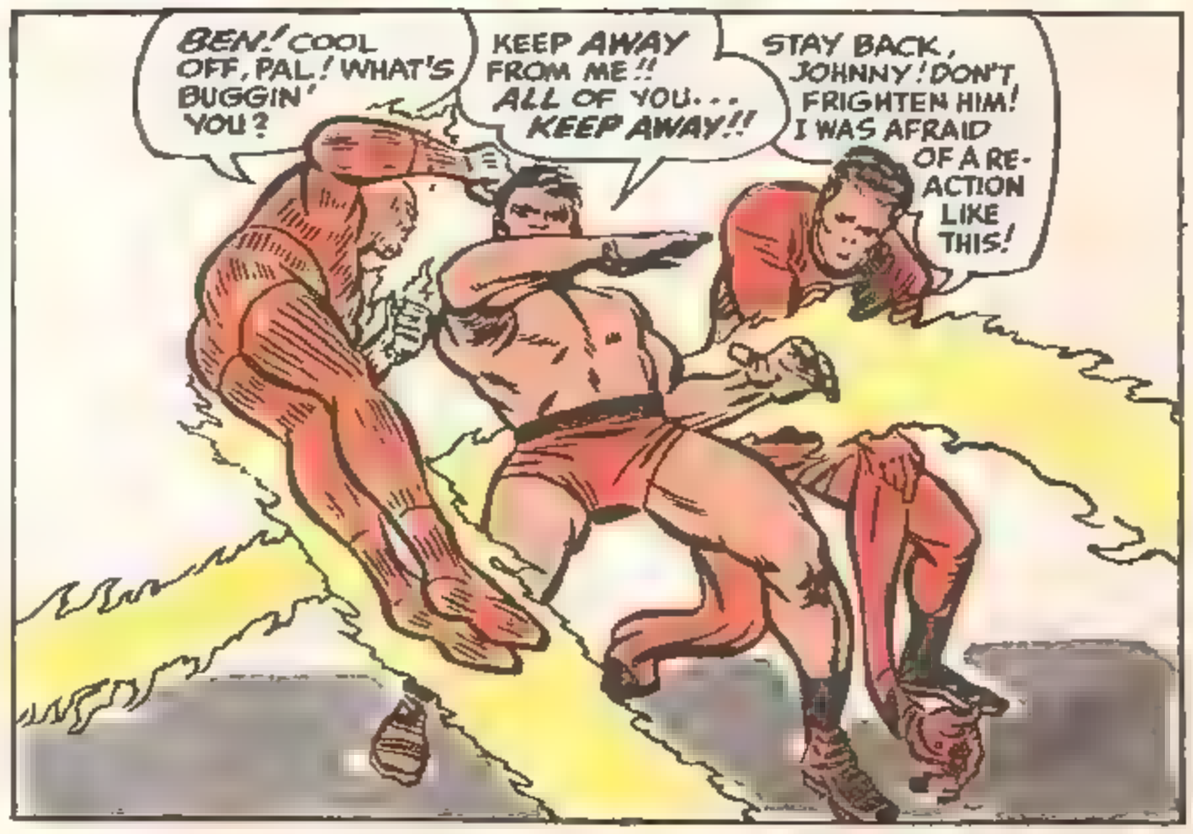
THEN, SLOWLY, AWESOMELY, A STRANGE AND OMINOUS FIGURE BEGINS TO MOVE UPWARD... TOWARDS THE SURFACE...

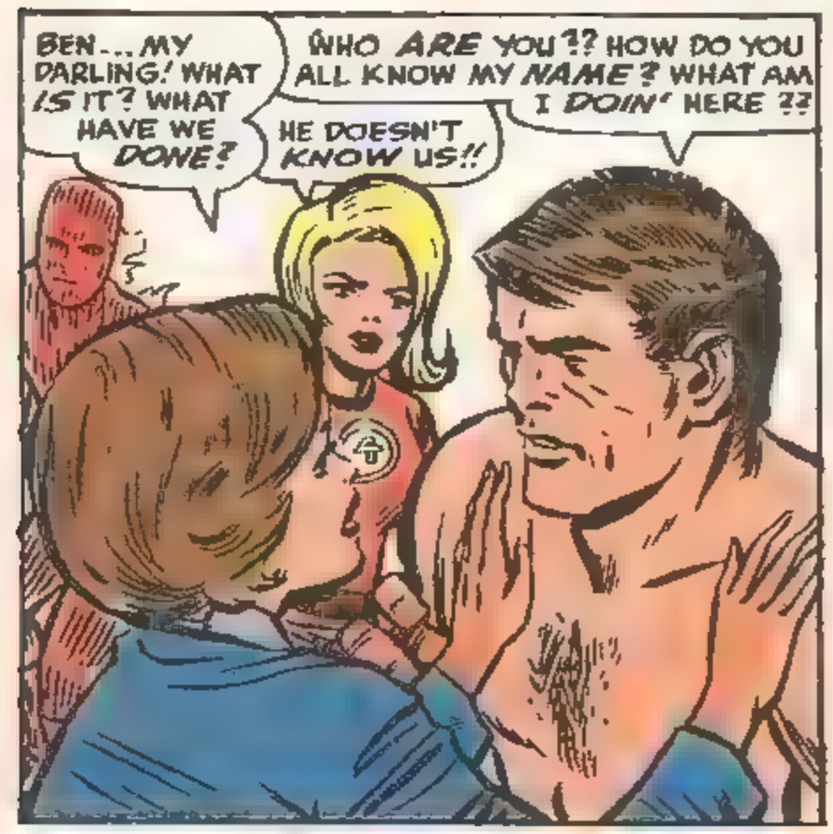

FINALLY, REACHING THE SUMMIT OF THE VOLCANO. THE FIGURE STOPS AND PONDERS FOR A MOMENT! THEN, AS THOUGH REACHING A MOMENTOUS DECISION, IT BURSTS INTO FLAME AND FLASHES AWAY TOWARDS THE MAINLAND, LIKE A FIERY COMET...
I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE ...AND NOTHING SHALL STOP ME!


I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO COME, ALICIA! IT'S TIME TO CHECK BEN AGAIN, AND I KNEW YOU'D WANT TO BE HERE!
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THOSE AFTER-EFFECTS YOU MENTIONED, REED! I...I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENS TO BEN...!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO LOSE THE BIG GUY!
OR MAYBE I JUST DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT!
LISTEN! SOMEONE IS COMING! LOOK!
WHILE, BACK AT F.F. HEAD-QUARTERS...

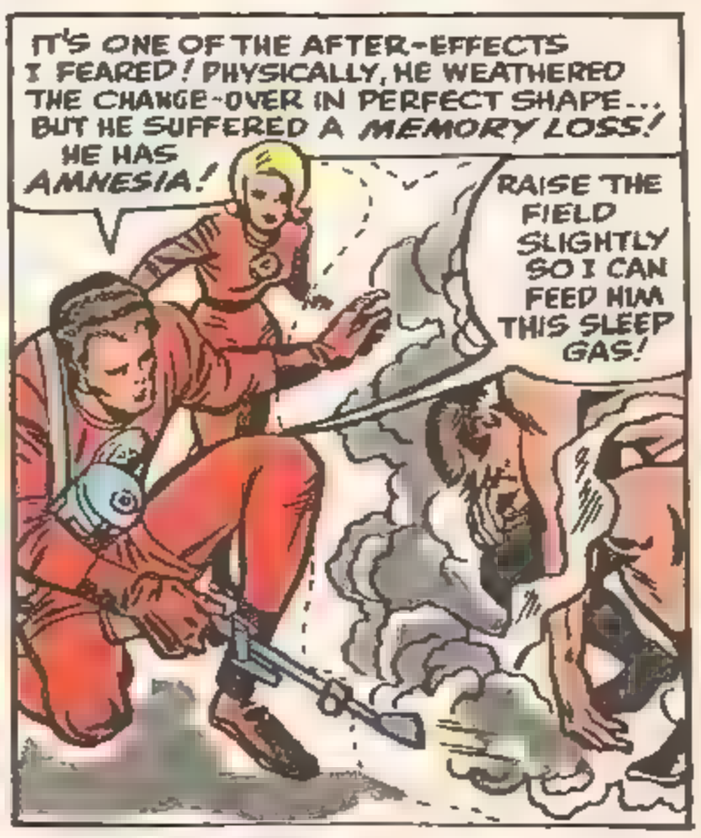

IT'S BEN!
ALL RIGHT, PAL... YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAININ' TO DO!!
HOW... HOW IS HE?
BEN! WHAT'S WRONG?
HE LOOKS MAD!


YOU'RE DARN RIGHT I'M MAD!! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE... BUT I DON'T LIKE IT!
EASY, BEN!! WE'VE NOTHING TO FIGHT ABOUT!


BEN! COOL OFF, PAL! WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU?
KEEP AWAY FROM ME!! ALL OF YOU... KEEP AWAY!!
STAY BACK, JOHNNY! DON'T FRIGHTEN HIM! I WAS AFRAID OF A REACTION LIKE THIS!

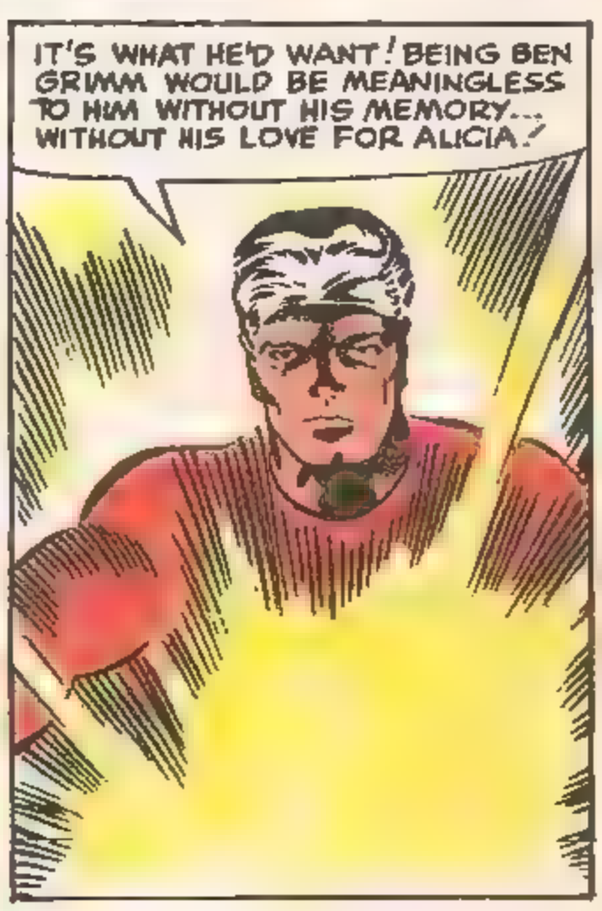

BEN... MY DARLING! WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAVE WE DONE?
WHO ARE YOU?? HOW DO YOU ALL KNOW MY NAME? WHAT AM I DOIN' HERE??
HE DOESN'T KNOW US!!

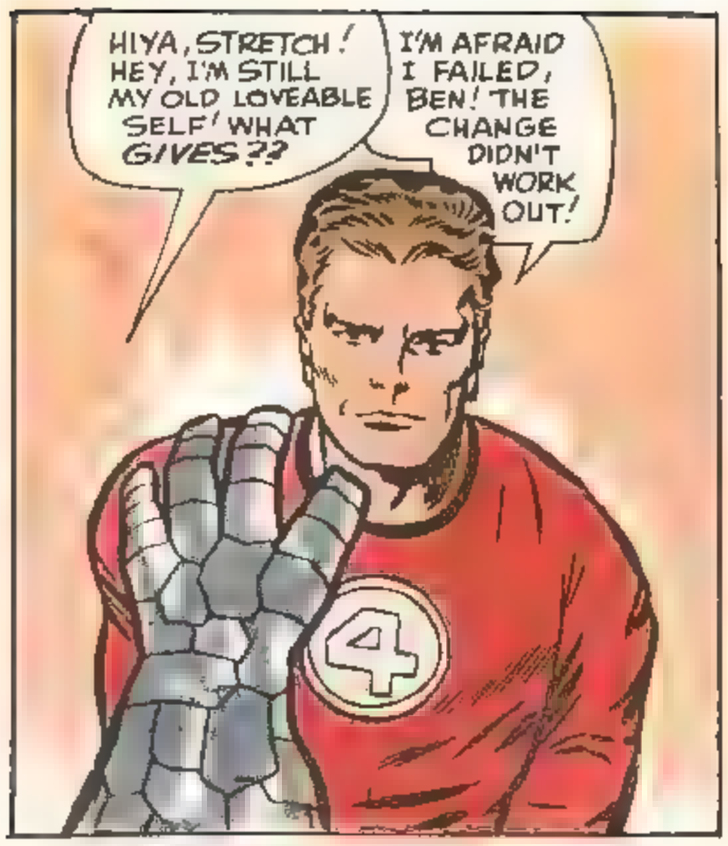
SUE... THROW YOUR INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD AROUND HIM! HOLD HIM! I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!
ALL RIGHT, REED! BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...!!

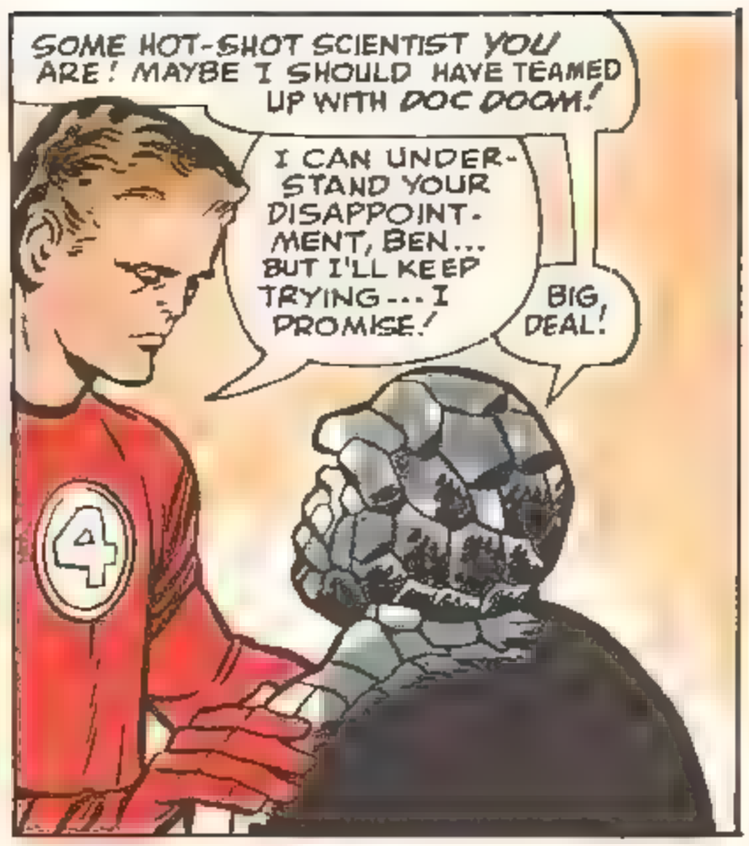

IT'S ONE OF THE AFTER-EFFECTS I FEARED! PHYSICALLY, HE WEATHERED THE CHANGE-OVER IN PERFECT SHAPE... BUT HE SUFFERED A MEMORY LOSS! HE HAS AMNESIA!
RAISE THE FIELD SLIGHTLY SO I CAN FEED HIM THIS SLEEP GAS!

HE DOESN'T KNOW ME!! HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME! OH, SUE... I'VE LOST HIM!
DON'T, ALICIA DEAR! IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT! REED WILL FIX THINGS SOME HOW!
EVERYTHING CHECKED OUT! WE WERE SO CLOSE TO SUCCESS! POOR BEN...

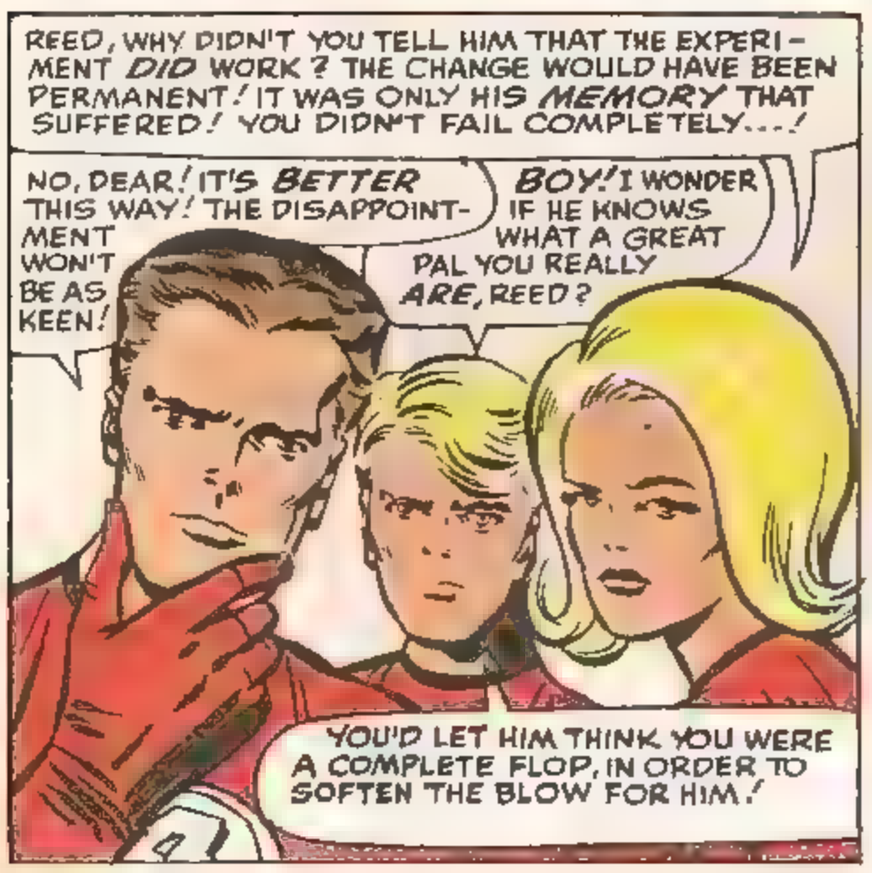
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, REED?
I'VE GOT TO REVERSE THE MICRO-ELECTRIC WAVES! IT'S LESS THAN 24 HOURS! THERE'S STILL TIME TO CHANGE HIM TO THE THING!

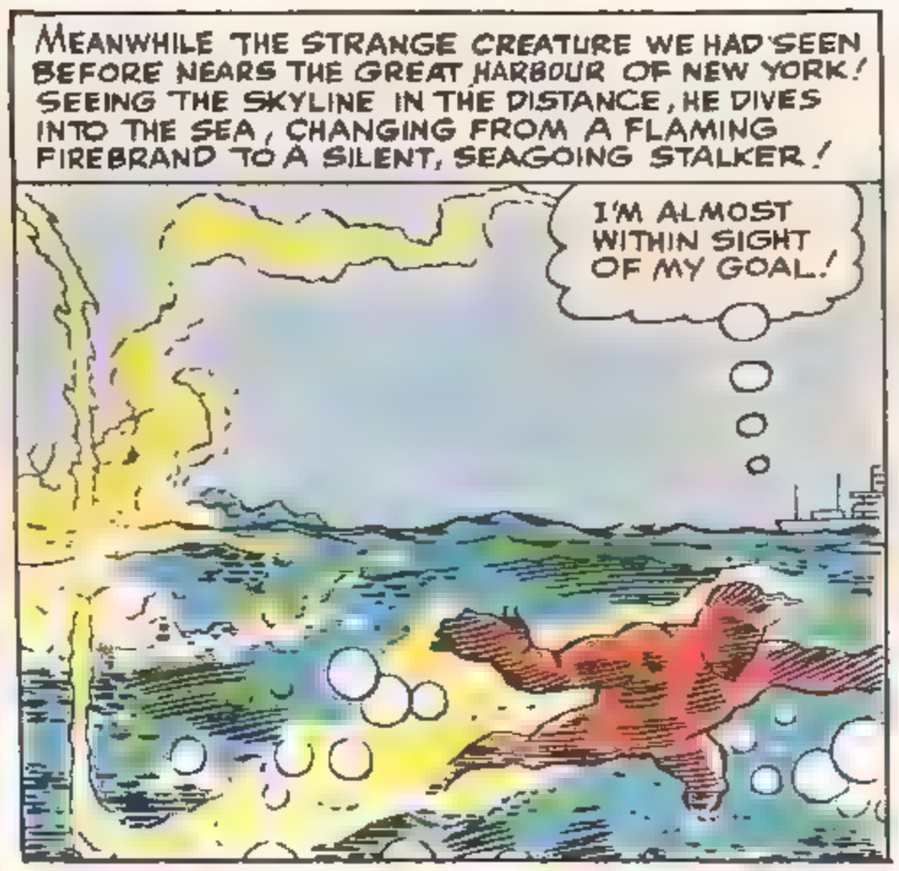

IT'S WHAT HE'D WANT! BEING BEN GRIMM WOULD BE MEANINGLESS TO HIM WITHOUT HIS MEMORY... WITHOUT HIS LOVE FOR ALICIA!


HIYA, STRETCH! HEY, I'M STILL MY OLD LOVEABLE SELF! WHAT GIVES??
I'M AFRAID I FAILED, BEN! THE CHANGE DIDN'T WORK OUT!

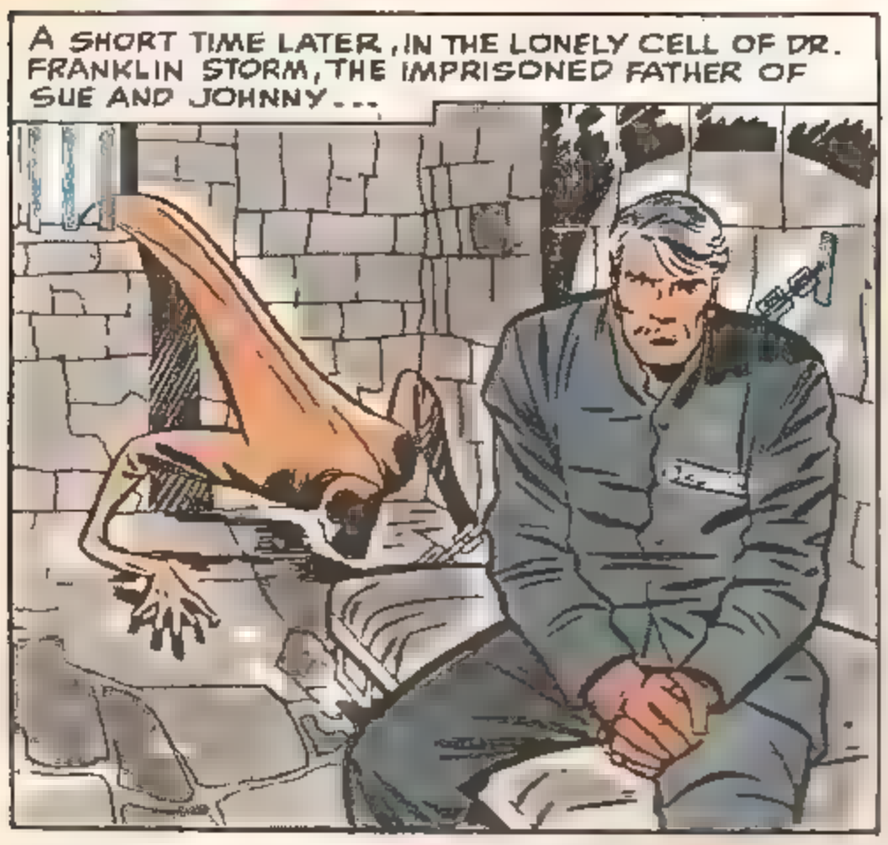

SOME HOT-SHOT SCIENTIST YOU ARE! MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TEAMED UP WITH DOC DOOM!
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT, BEN... BUT I'LL KEEP TRYING... I PROMISE!
BIG DEAL!

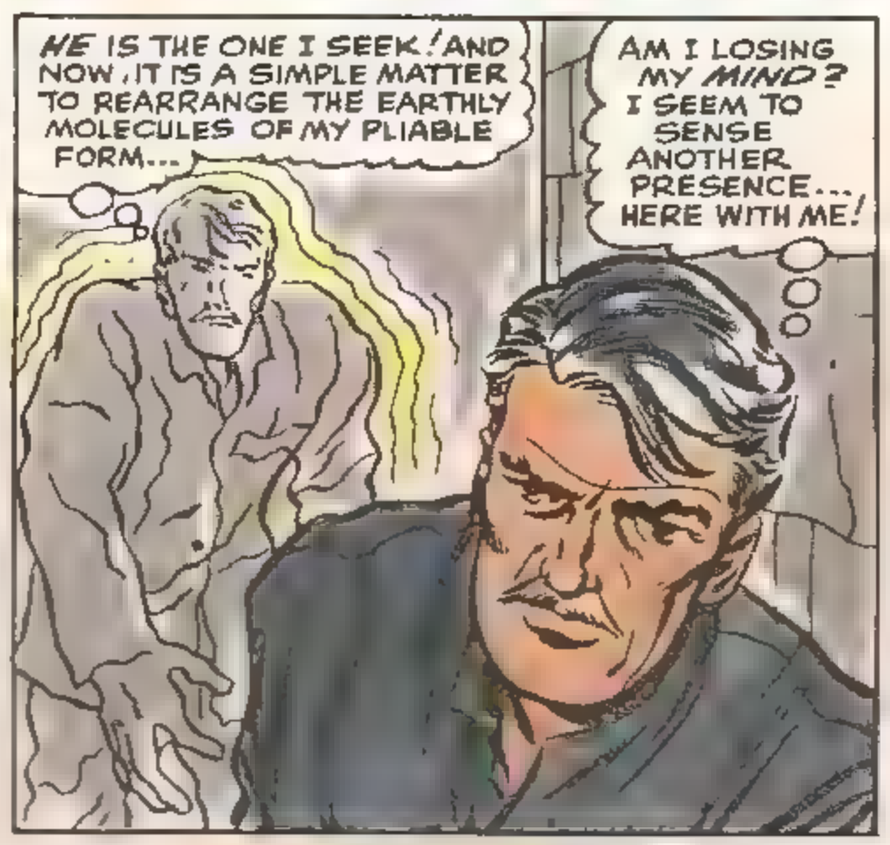
HI, ALICIA! BOY, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU! NOW THE DAY AIN'T A COMPLETE WASTE!
OH, BEN! IT'S YOU! YOU'RE YOURSELF AGAIN! I'M SO HAPPY!

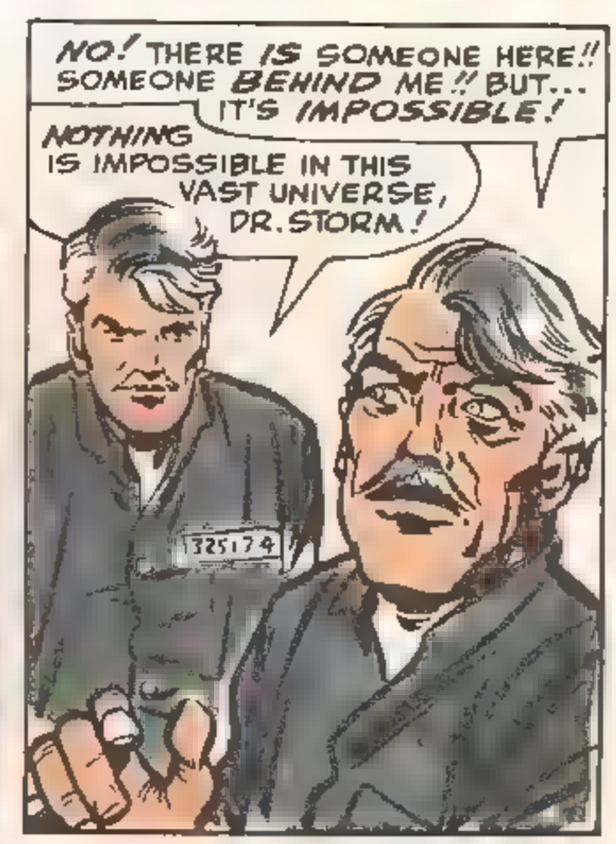

REED, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM THAT THE EXPERIMENT DID WORK? THE CHANGE WOULD HAVE BEEN PERMANENT! IT WAS ONLY HIS MEMORY THAT SUFFERED! YOU DIDN'T FAIL COMPLETELY...!
NO, DEAR! IT'S BETTER THIS WAY! THE DISAPPOINTMENT WON'T BE AS KEEN!
BOY! I WONDER IF HE KNOWS WHAT A GREAT PAL YOU REALLY ARE, REED?
YOU'D LET HIM THINK YOU WERE A COMPLETE FLOP, IN ORDER TO SOFTEN THE BLOW FOR HIM!

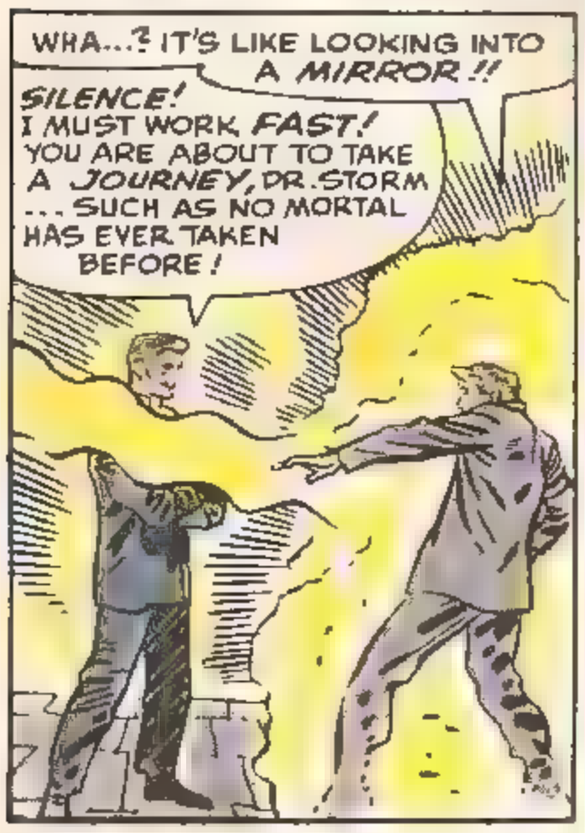

MEANWHILE THE STRANGE CREATURE WE HAD SEEN BEFORE NEARS THE GREAT HARBOUR OF NEW YORK! SEEING THE SKYLINE IN THE DISTANCE, HE DIVES INTO THE SEA, CHANGING FROM A FLAMING FIREBRAND TO A SILENT, SEAGOING STALKER!
I'M ALMOST WITHIN SIGHT OF MY GOAL!

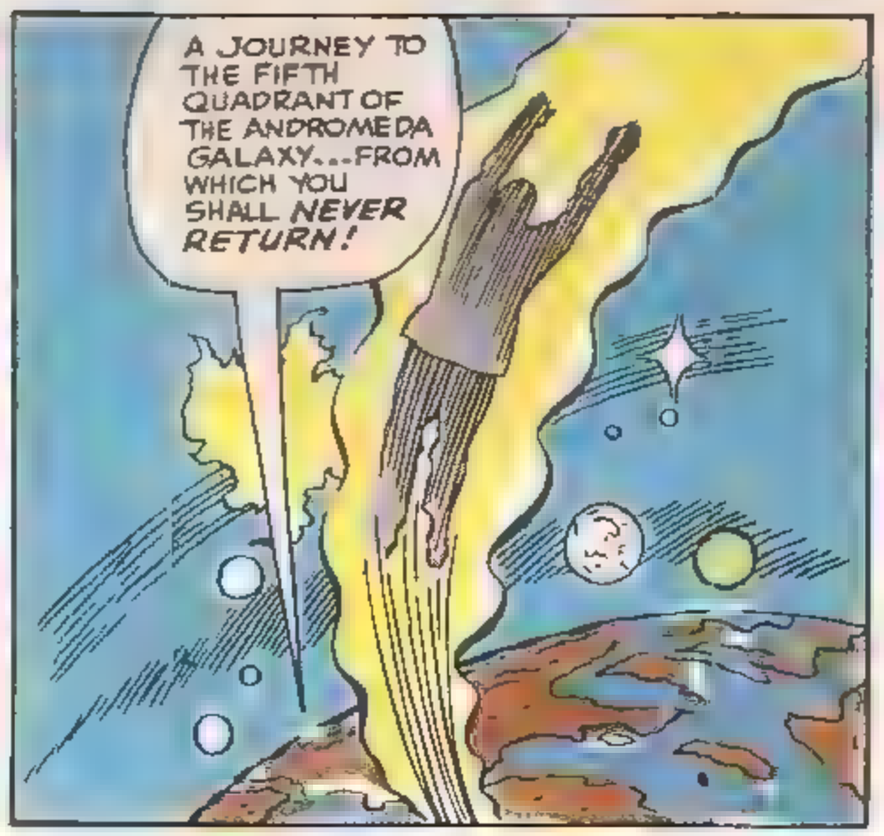
AT THIS HOUR THE STREETS ARE DARK, ALMOST DESERTED! NONE WILL SEE ME!

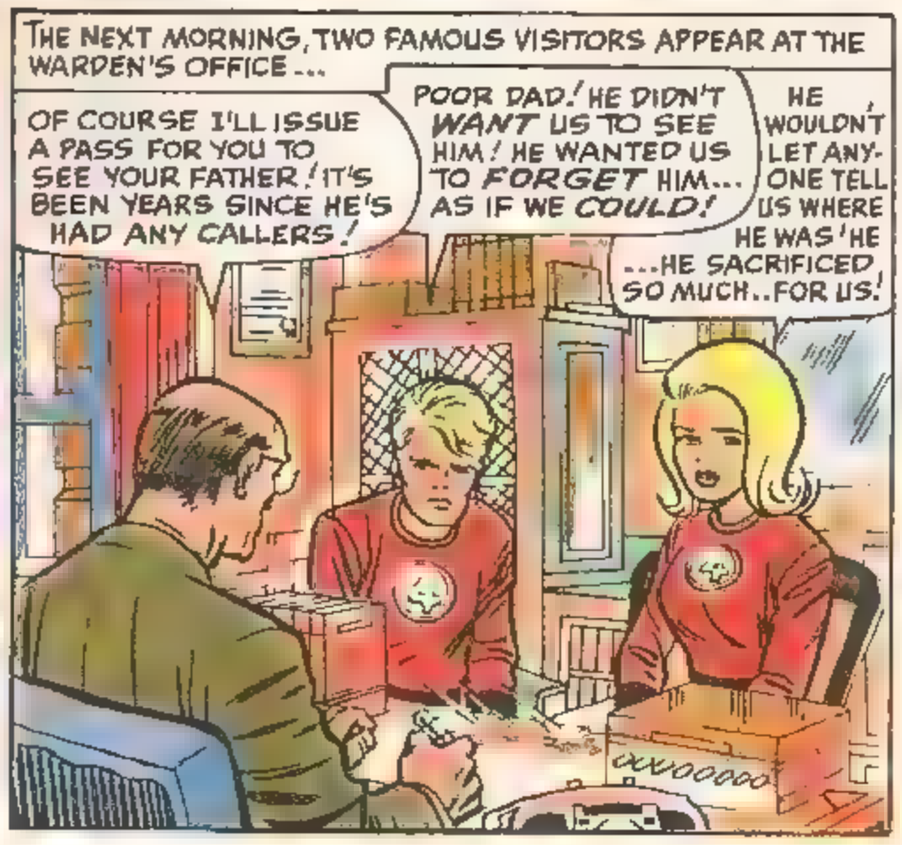

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE LONELY CELL OF DR. FRANKLIN STORM, THE IMPRISONED FATHER OF SUE AND JOHNNY...

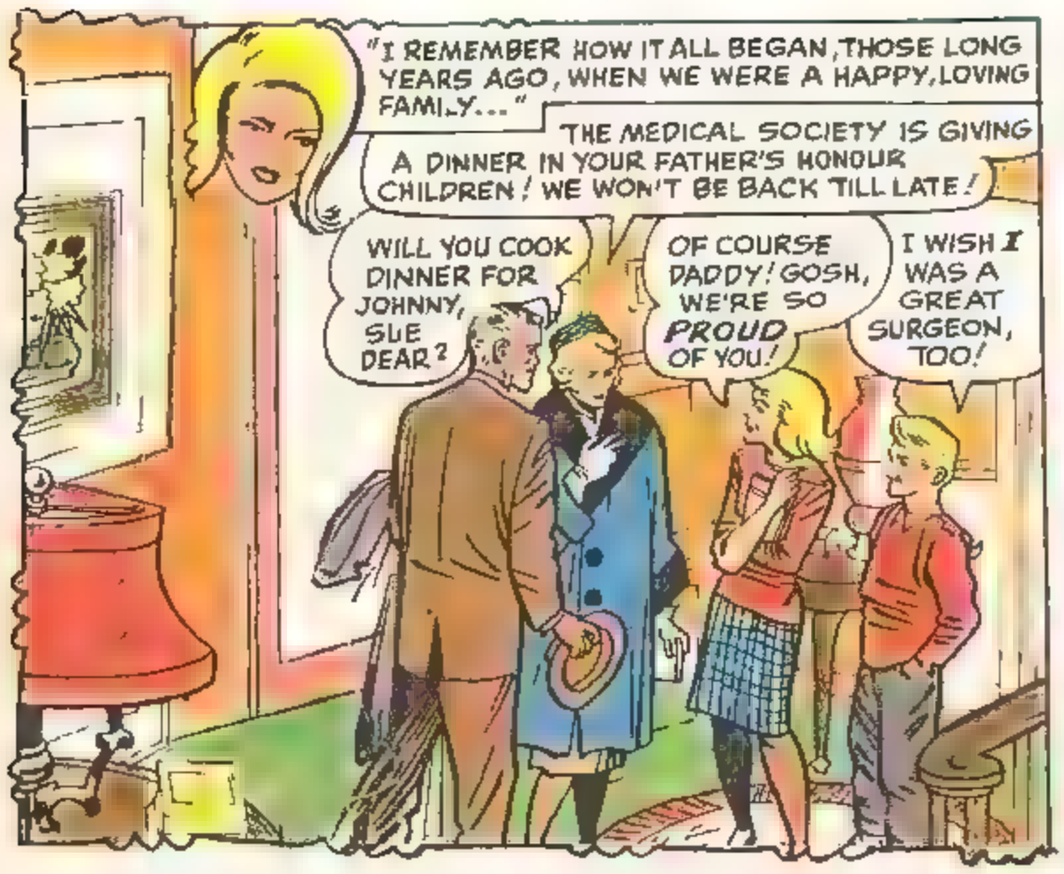

HE IS THE ONE I SEEK! AND NOW, IT IS A SIMPLE MATTER TO REARRANGE THE EARTHLY MOLECULES OF MY PLIABLE FORM...
AM I LOSING MY MIND? I SEEM TO SENSE ANOTHER PRESENCE... HERE WITH ME!

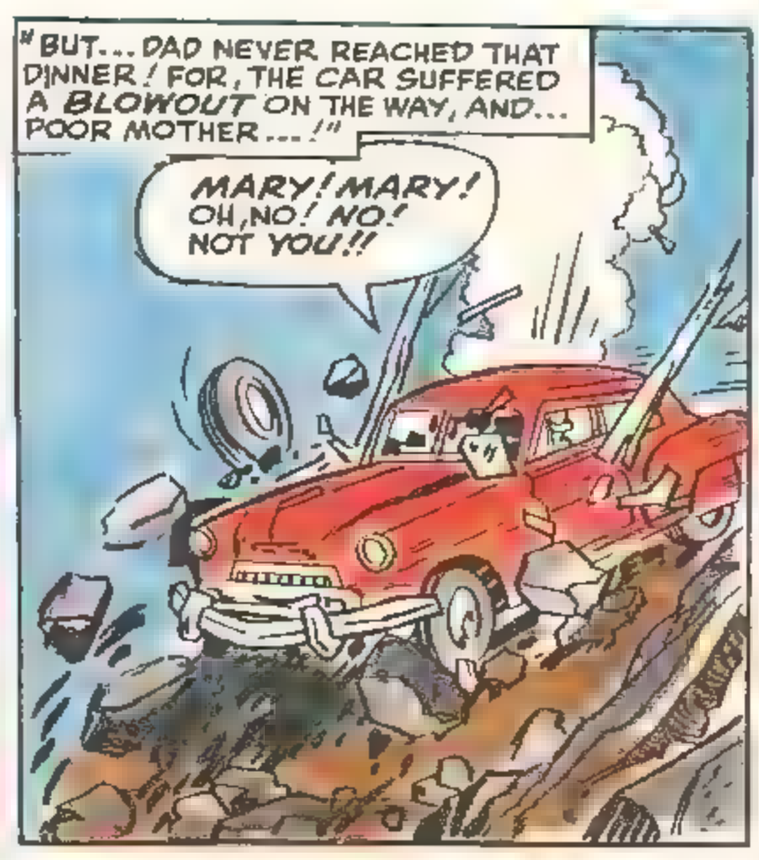

NO! THERE IS SOMEONE HERE!! SOMEONE BEHIND ME!! BUT... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS VAST UNIVERSE, DR. STORM!


WHA...? IT'S LIKE LOOKING INTO A MIRROR!!
SILENCE! I MUST WORK FAST! YOU ARE ABOUT TO TAKE A JOURNEY, DR. STORM ... SUCH AS NO MORTAL HAS EVER TAKEN BEFORE!


A JOURNEY TO THE FIFTH QUADRANT OF THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY... FROM WHICH YOU SHALL NEVER RETURN!


THE NEXT MORNING, TWO FAMOUS VISITORS APPEAR AT THE WARDEN'S OFFICE...
OF COURSE I'LL ISSUE A PASS FOR YOU TO SEE YOUR FATHER! IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE HE'S HAD ANY CALLERS!
POOR DAD! HE DIDN'T WANT US TO SEE HIM! HE WANTED US TO FORGET HIM... AS IF WE COULD!
HE WOULDN'T LET ANYONE TELL US WHERE HE WAS! HE ...HE SACRIFICED SO MUCH..FOR US!

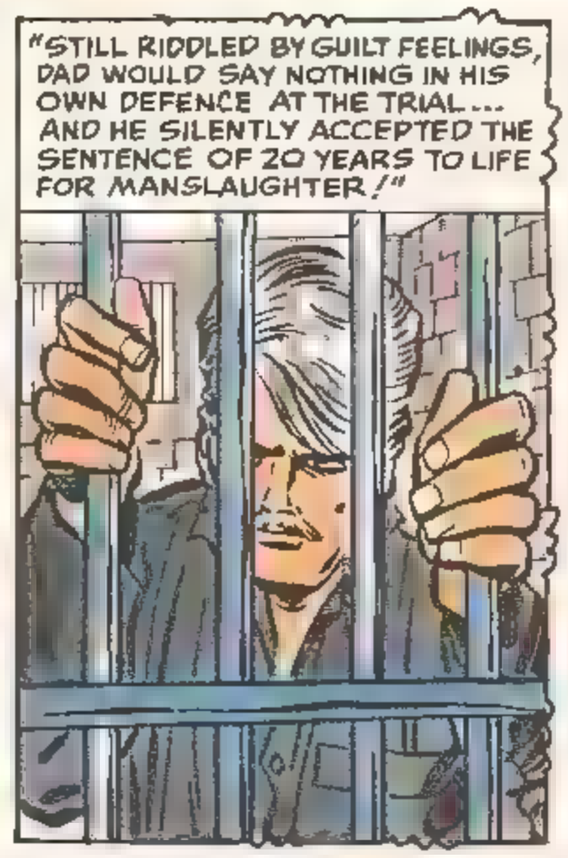

"I REMEMBER HOW IT ALL BEGAN, THOSE LONG YEARS AGO, WHEN WE WERE A HAPPY, LOVING FAMILY..."
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY IS GIVING A DINNER IN YOUR FATHER'S HONOUR CHILDREN! WE WON'T BE BACK TILL LATE!
WILL YOU COOK DINNER FOR JOHNNY, SUE DEAR?
OF COURSE DADDY! GOSH, WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU!
I WISH I WAS A GREAT SURGEON, TOO!

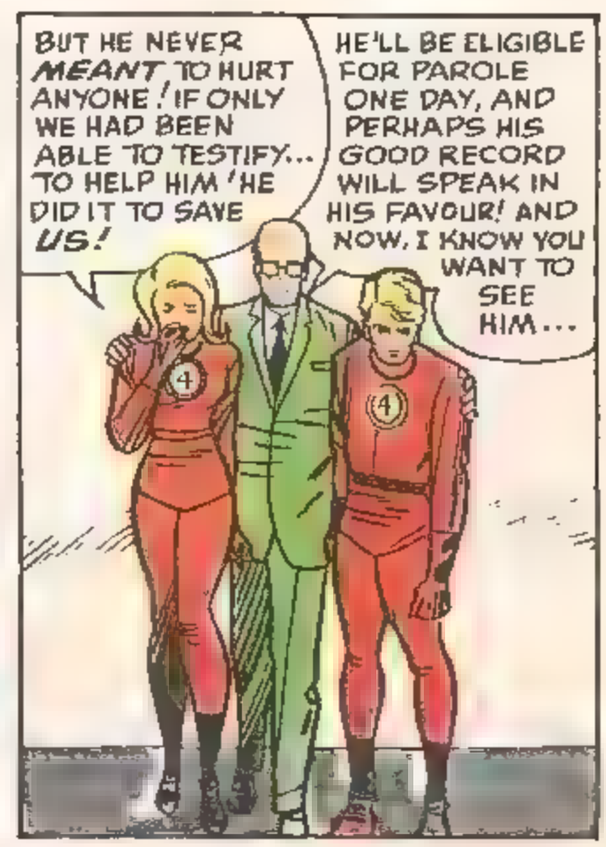

"BUT... DAD NEVER REACHED THAT DINNER! FOR, THE CAR SUFFERED A BLOWOUT ON THE WAY, AND... POOR MOTHER...!"
MARY! MARY! OH, NO! NO! NOT YOU!!

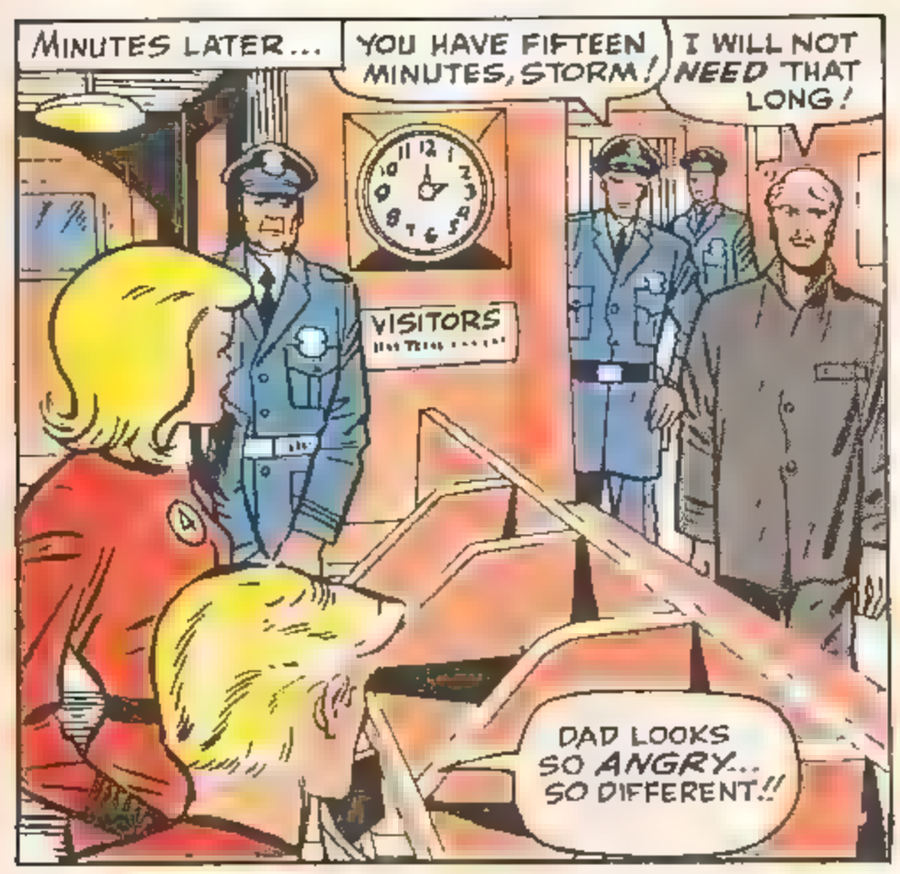
"DAD HAD MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPED UNSCATHED, BUT MOTHER WAS CRITICALLY INJURED!"
YOU DID YOUR BEST, FRANKLIN! BUT IT WAS HOPELESS! NO ONE COULD HAVE SAVED HER!
I'VE SAVED SO MANY... BUT NOW... MY OWN WIFE... MY OWN WIFE..!!

"DAD NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK! HE GAVE UP HIS MEDICAL PRACTICE... LIFE SEEMED TO HOLD NO MEANING FOR HIM! HE BLAMED HIMSELF FOR MOTHER'S FATE... AND HE SLID DOWN... AND DOWN..."
YOU'VE LOST ENOUGH TONIGHT, STORM! WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME?
WHAT FOR? MARY ISN'T THERE... SHE'S GONE! I'LL BET IT ALL ON THE RED..!

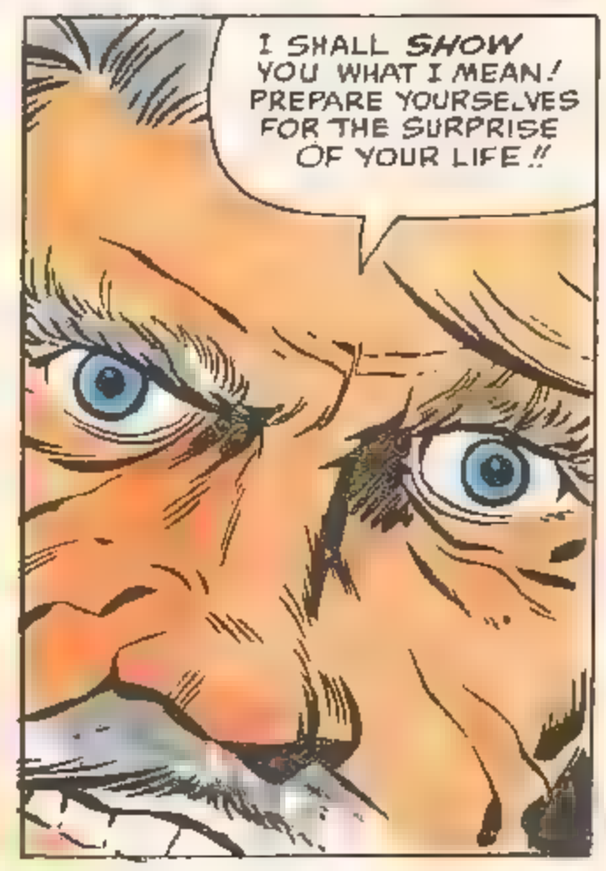
"FINALLY, HIS GAMBLING LOSSES TOOK ALL HIS MONEY! THEN, HE BORROWED FROM AN UNDERWORLD LOAN SHARK! AND, WHEN HE COULDN'T REPAY IN TIME..."
NO! YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME.. OR MY CHILDREN! THEY'RE ALL I HAVE!
PUT AWAY THAT GUN! IT'LL GO OFF! IT'LL... OHHH!

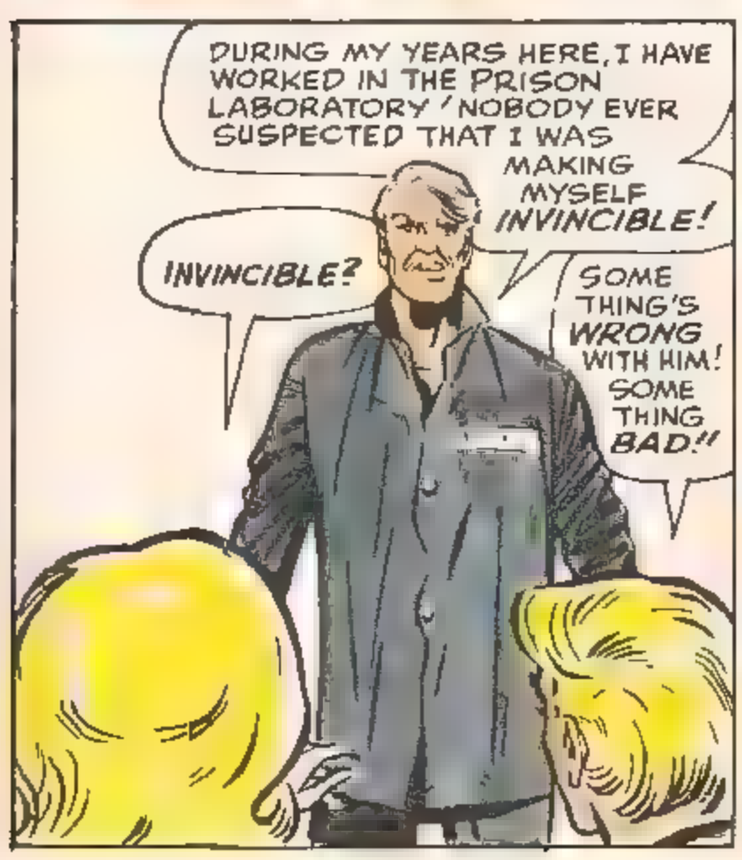

"STILL RIDDLED BY GUILT FEELINGS, DAD WOULD SAY NOTHING IN HIS OWN DEFENCE AT THE TRIAL... AND HE SILENTLY ACCEPTED THE SENTENCE OF 20 YEARS TO LIFE FOR MANSLAUGHTER!"

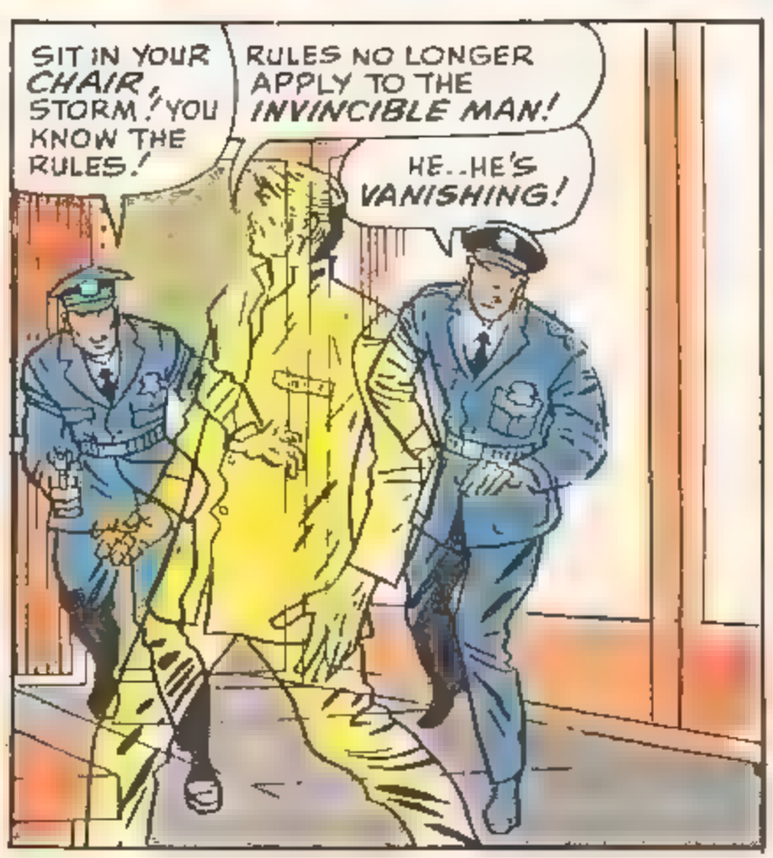

BUT HE NEVER MEANT TO HURT ANYONE! IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TESTIFY... TO HELP HIM! HE DID IT TO SAVE US!
HE'LL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE ONE DAY, AND PERHAPS HIS GOOD RECORD WILL SPEAK IN HIS FAVOUR! AND NOW, I KNOW YOU WANT TO SEE HIM...


MINUTES LATER...
YOU HAVE FIFTEEN MINUTES, STORM!
I WILL NOT NEED THAT LONG!
VISITORS
DAD LOOKS SO ANGRY... SO DIFFERENT!!

HELLO, DAD! WE.. WE KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE US TO COME HERE, BUT WE WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BADLY...
WE WANTED YOU TO KNOW WE'RE WORKING ON YOUR PAROLE... TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN..
THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY!
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

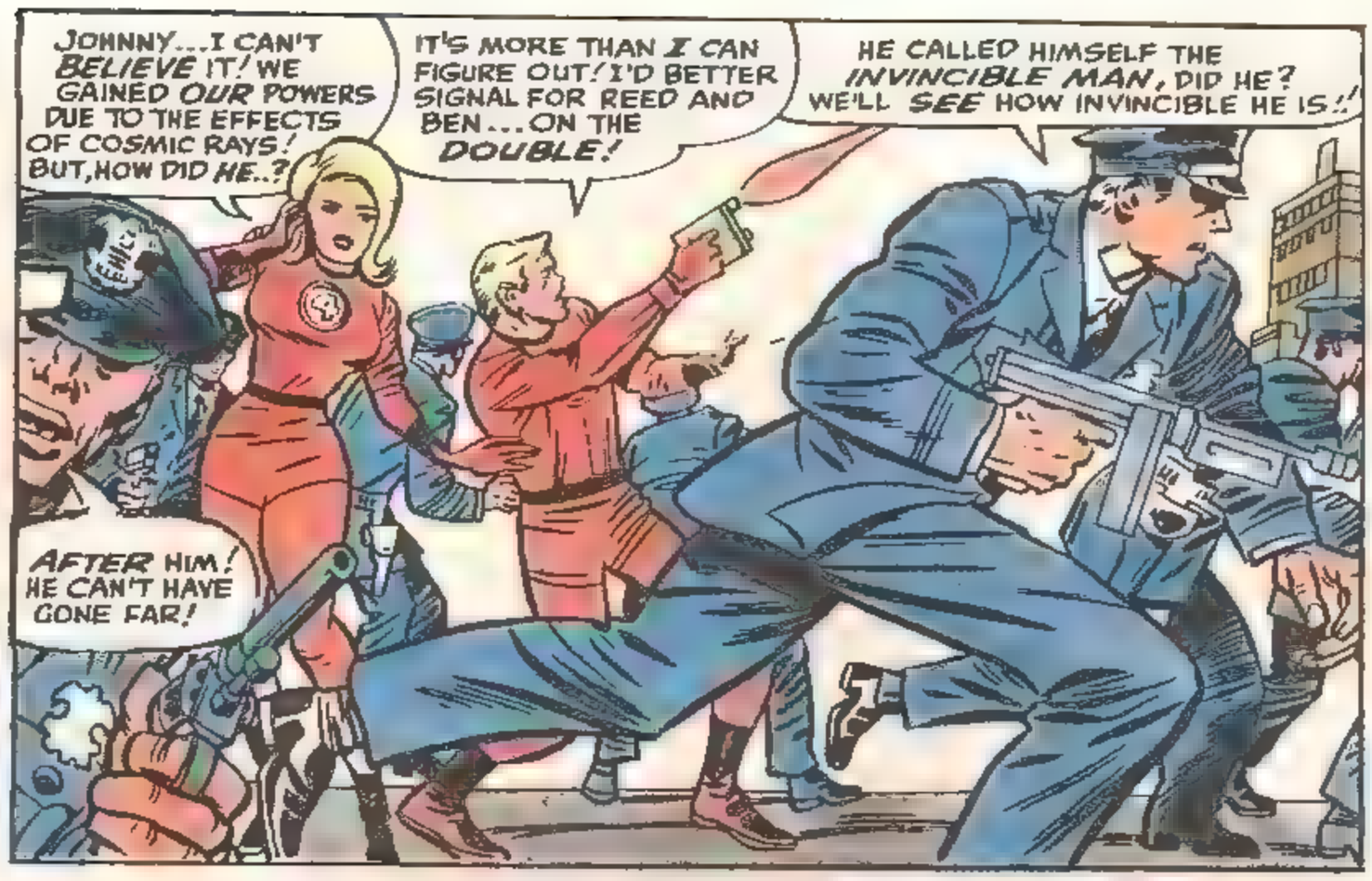

I SHALL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN! PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THE SURPRISE OF YOUR LIFE!!

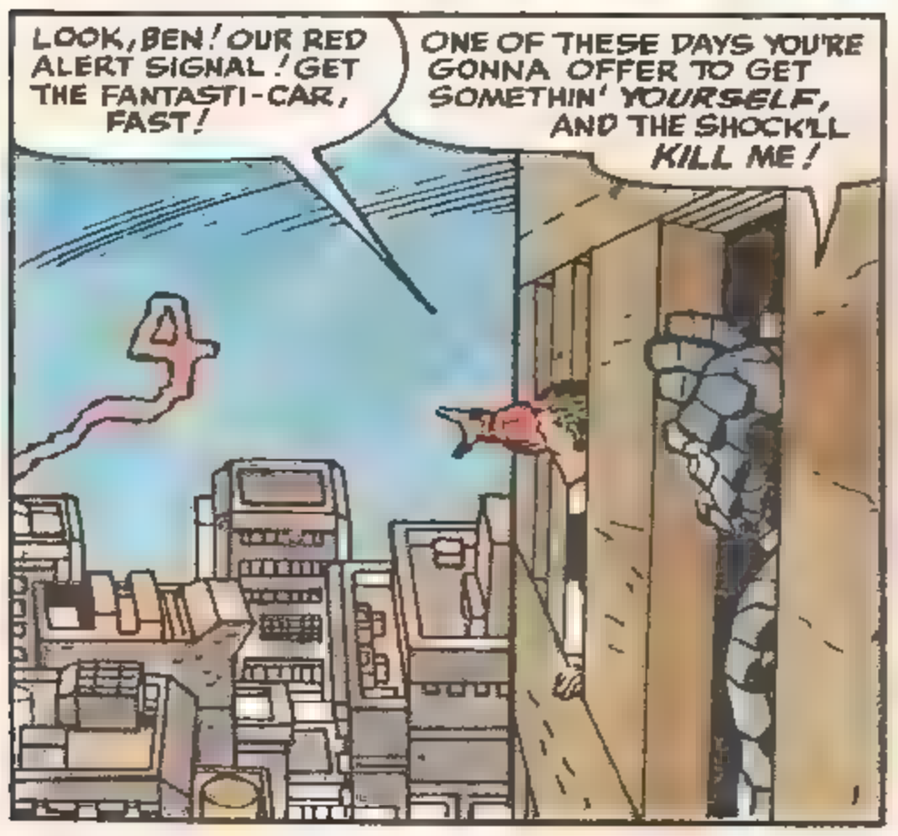

DURING MY YEARS HERE, I HAVE WORKED IN THE PRISON LABORATORY! NOBODY EVER SUSPECTED THAT I WAS MAKING MYSELF INVINCIBLE!
INVINCIBLE?
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM! SOMETHING BAD!!

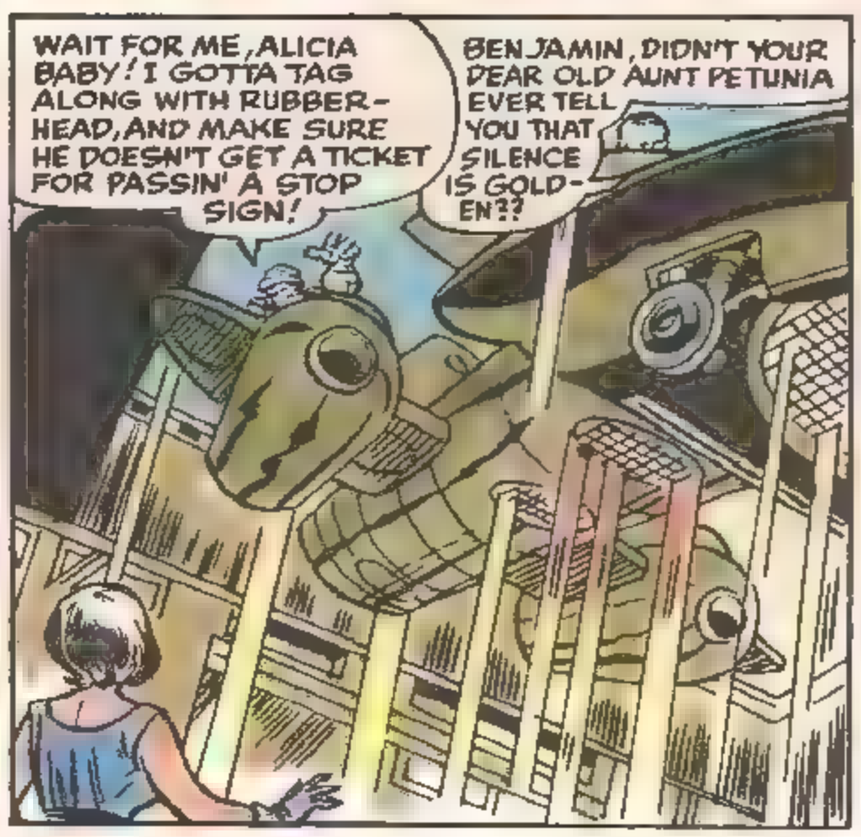

SIT IN YOUR CHAIR, STORM! YOU KNOW THE RULES!
RULES NO LONGER APPLY TO THE INVINCIBLE MAN!
HE.. HE'S VANISHING!

INVISIBILITY IS BUT ONE OF MY POWERS! WHATEVER THE FANTASTIC FOUR CAN DO, I CAN DO BETTER! NOW I SHALL ESCAPE, USING THE STRENGTH OF THE THING!
BAM!

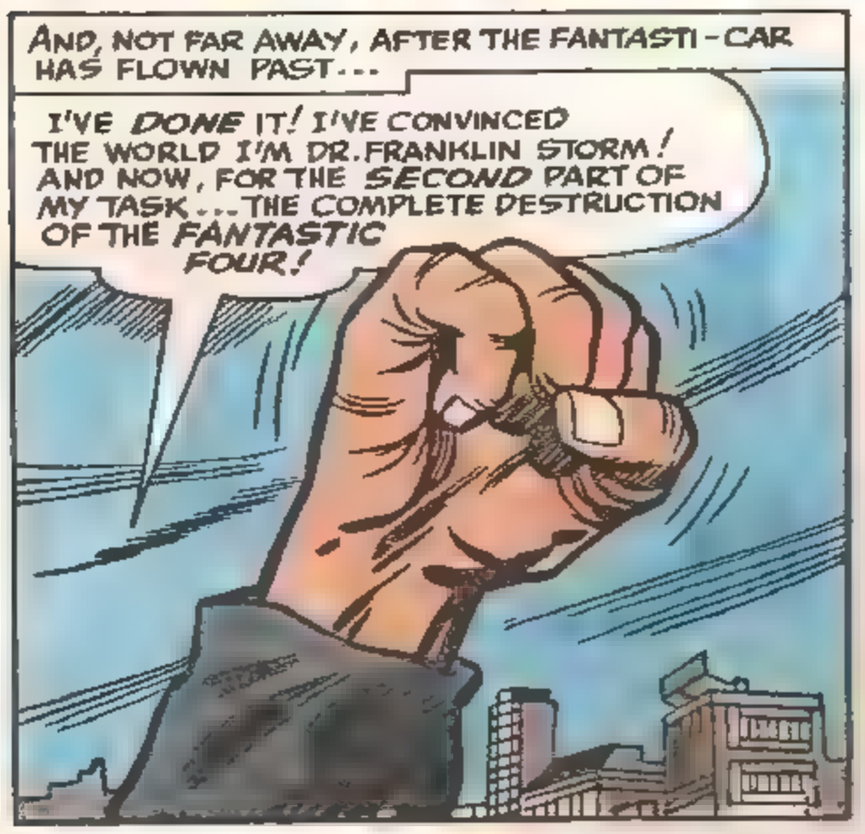
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! BUT.. HE DID IT! HE ESCAPED BEFORE OUR EYES!
WELL...DON'T JUST STAND THERE! WE'VE GOTTA TURN ON THE ALARM!!
DAD!!


JOHNNY...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WE GAINED OUR POWERS DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF COSMIC RAYS! BUT, HOW DID HE..?
IT'S MORE THAN I CAN FIGURE OUT! I'D BETTER SIGNAL FOR REED AND BEN...ON THE DOUBLE!
HE CALLED HIMSELF THE INVINCIBLE MAN, DID HE? WE'LL SEE HOW INVINCIBLE HE IS!!
AFTER HIM! HE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR!


LOOK, BEN! OUR RED ALERT SIGNAL! GET THE FANTASTI-CAR, FAST!
ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'RE GONNA OFFER TO GET SOMETHIN' YOURSELF, AND THE SHOCK'LL KILL ME!

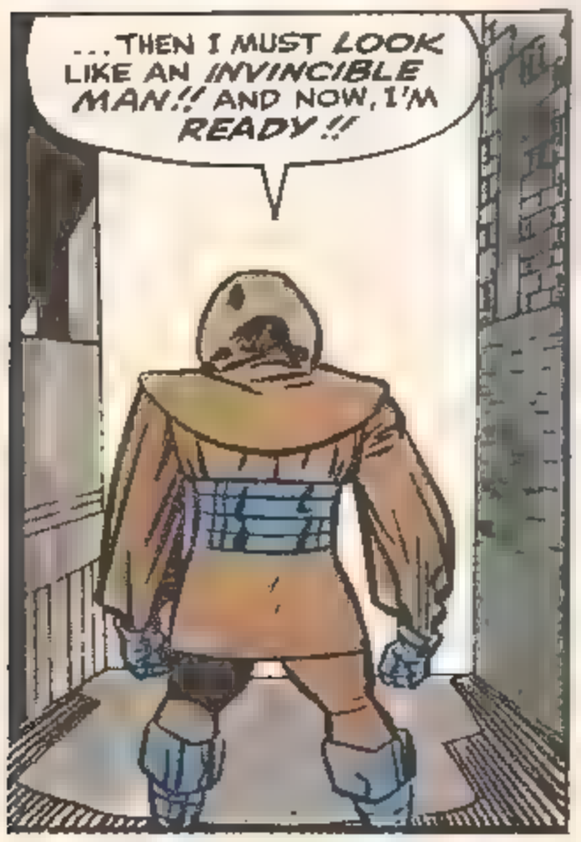

WAIT FOR ME, ALICIA BABY! I GOTTA TAG ALONG WITH RUBBER-HEAD, AND MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET A TICKET FOR PASSIN' A STOP SIGN!
BENJAMIN, DIDN'T YOUR DEAR OLD AUNT PETUNIA EVER TELL YOU THAT SILENCE IS GOLDEN??

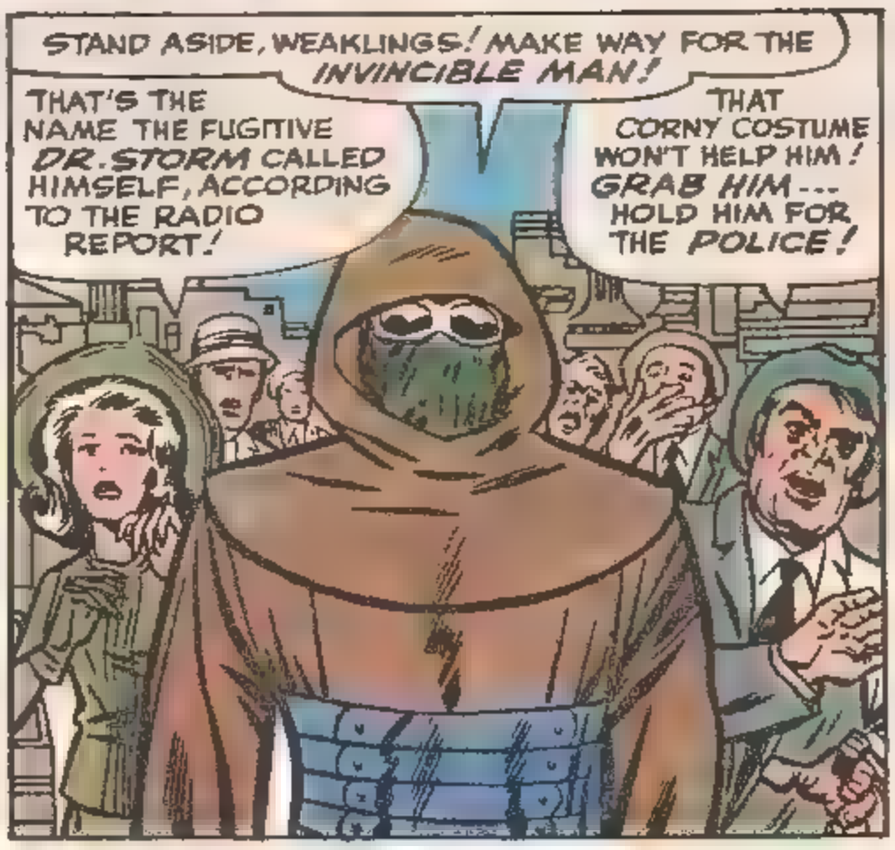
NAH... SHE NEVER STOPPED TALKIN' LONG ENOUGH TO SAY ANYTHING!
OKAY, BEN...LET'S QUIT CLOWNING AND CONCENTRATE ON FINDING SUE AND JOHNNY! THE SIGNAL CAME FROM DOWN-TOWN... WHERE THEY HAD GONE TO VISIT THEIR DAD!

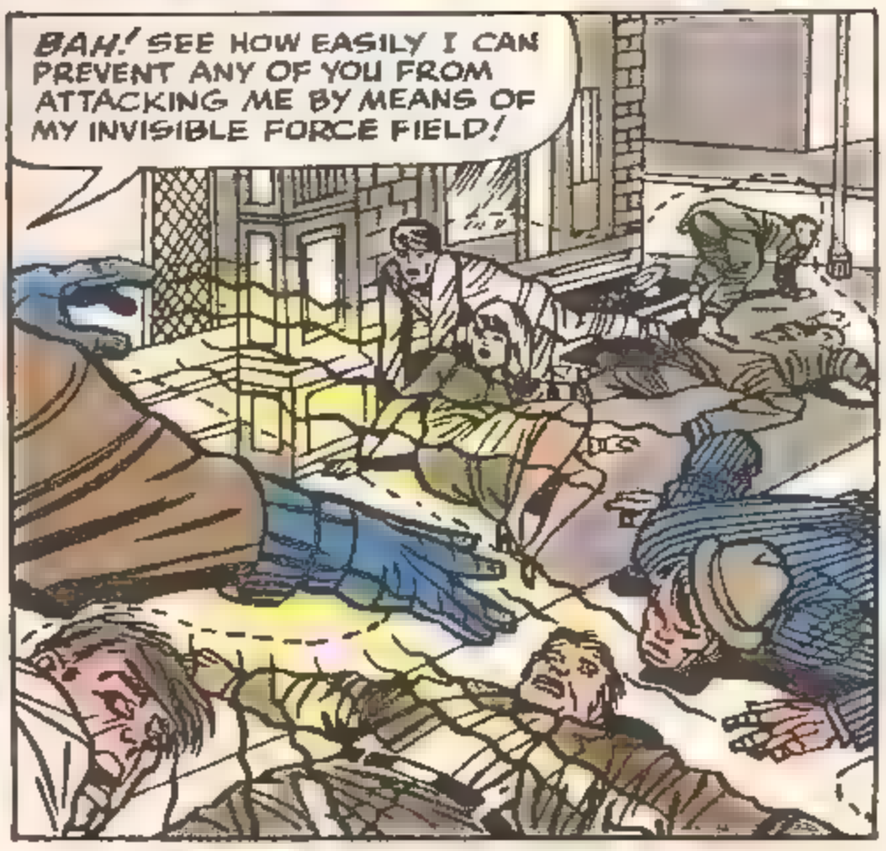

AND, NOT FAR AWAY, AFTER THE FANTASTI-CAR HAS FLOWN PAST...
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE CONVINCED THE WORLD I'M DR. FRANKLIN STORM! AND NOW, FOR THE SECOND PART OF MY TASK...THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

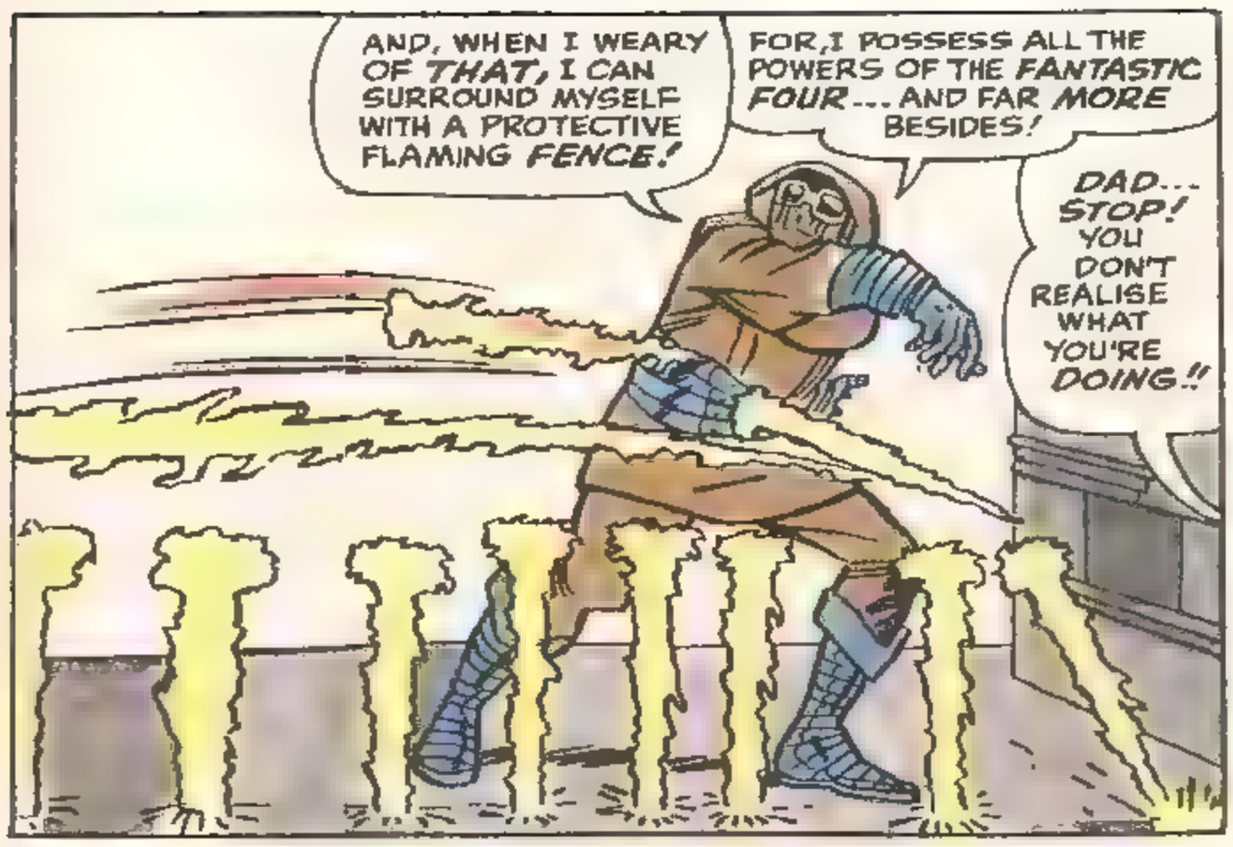
ALL IS IN READINESS... I CANNOT FAIL! BUT, I NEED ONE MORE THING... ONE FINAL TOUCH...

...IF I'M TO CALL MYSELF THE INVINCIBLE MAN...

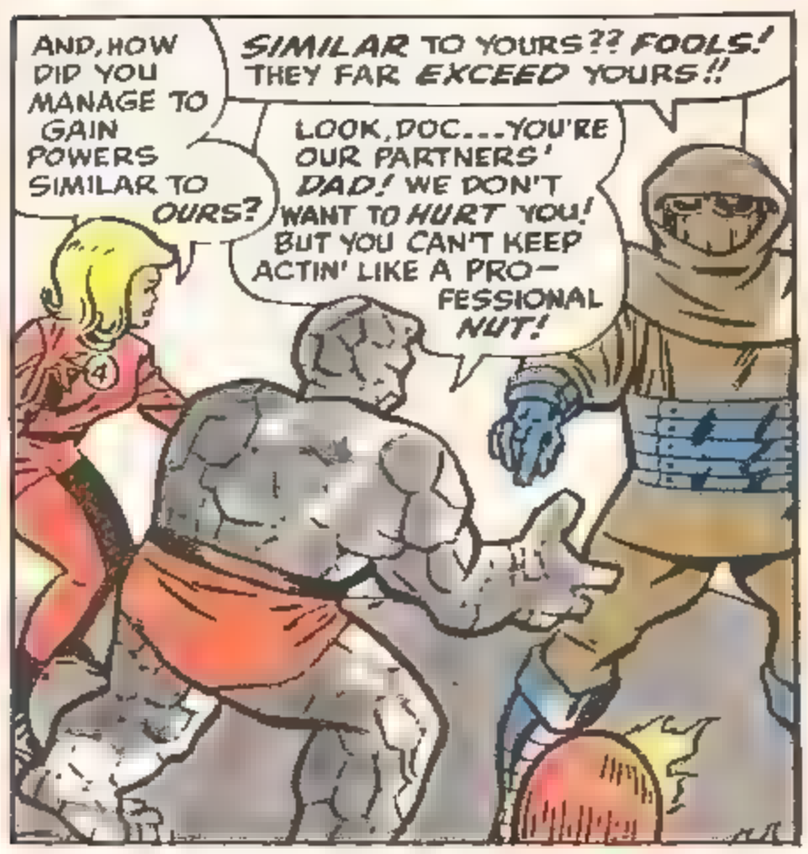

...THEN I MUST LOOK LIKE AN INVINCIBLE MAN!! AND NOW, I'M READY!!

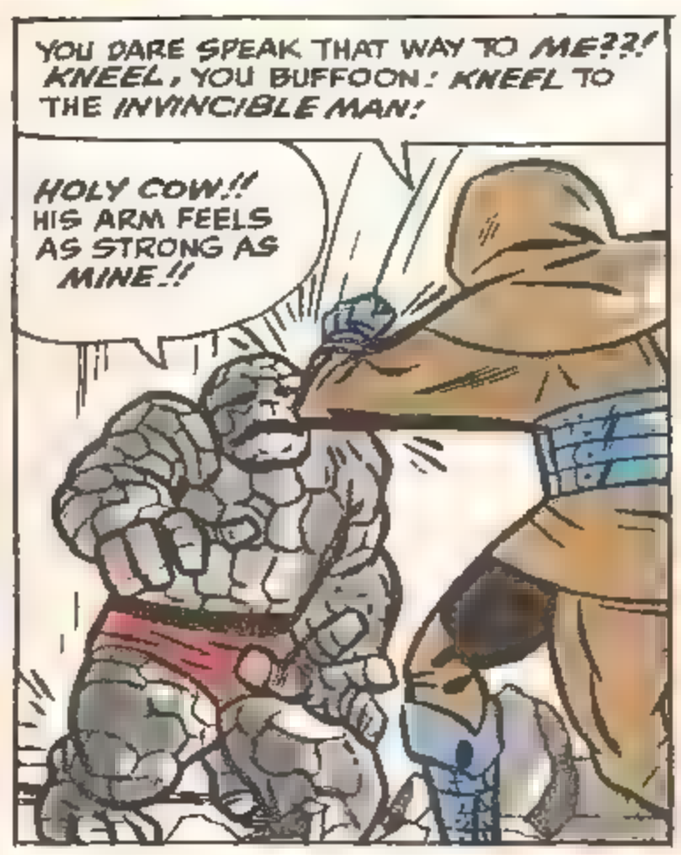

STAND ASIDE, WEAKLINGS! MAKE WAY FOR THE INVINCIBLE MAN!
THAT'S THE NAME THE FUGITIVE DR. STORM CALLED HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE RADIO REPORT!
THAT CORNY COSTUME WON'T HELP HIM! GRAB HIM... HOLD HIM FOR THE POLICE!


BAH! SEE HOW EASILY I CAN PREVENT ANY OF YOU FROM ATTACKING ME BY MEANS OF MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!

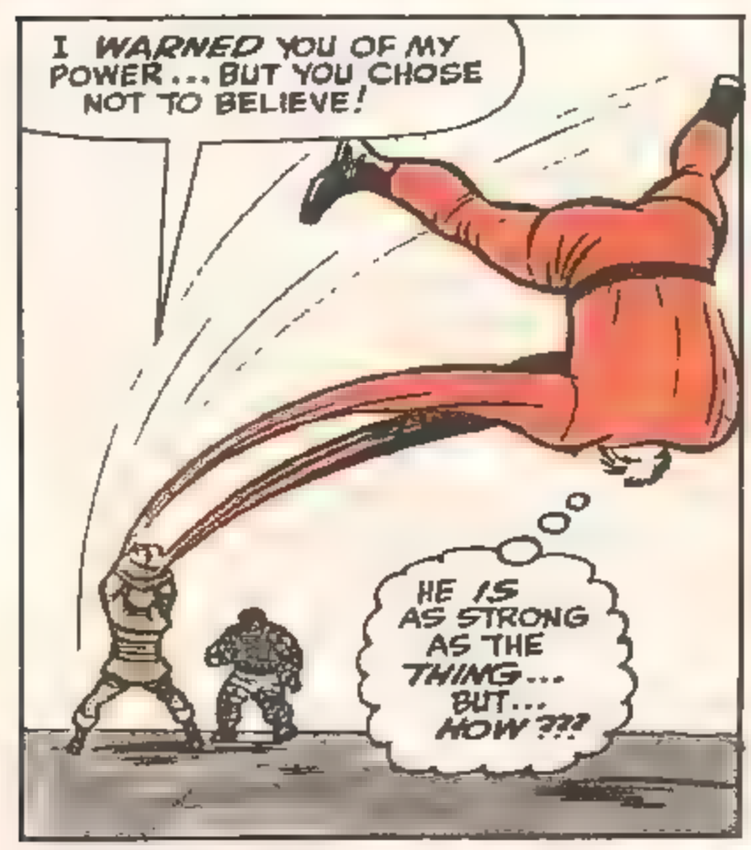

AND, WHEN I WEARY OF THAT, I CAN SURROUND MYSELF WITH A PROTECTIVE FLAMING FENCE!
FOR, I POSSESS ALL THE POWERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR... AND FAR MORE BESIDES!
DAD... STOP! YOU DON'T REALISE WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

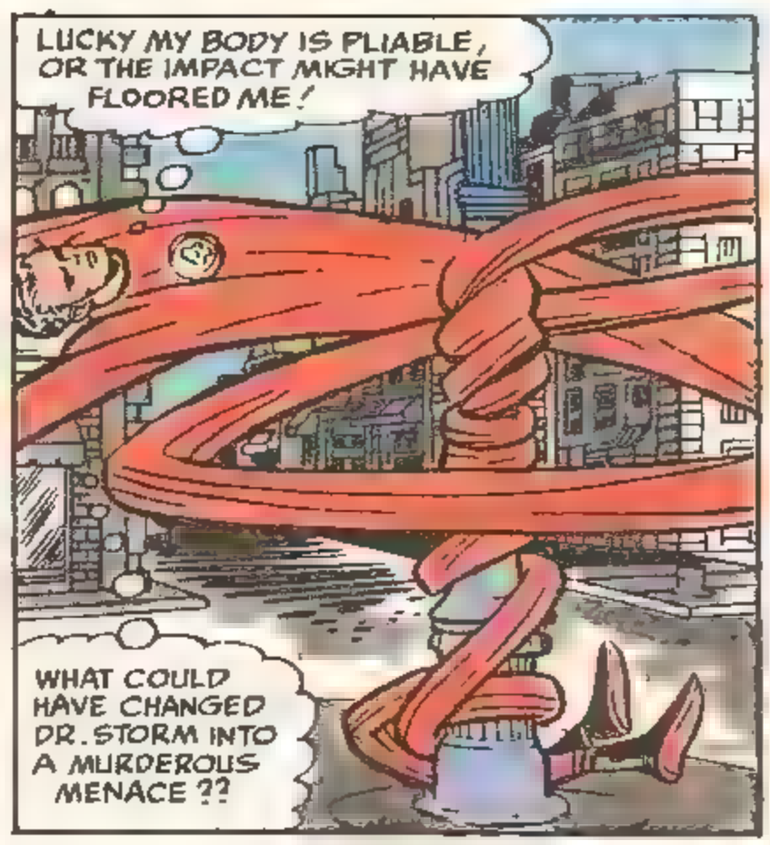
AHH, I SEE YOU HAVE FINALLY FOUND ME!!
I'LL DRAW THE FLAMING FENCE INTO MYSELF, SUE, WHILE YOU REASON WITH HIM!
DAD, TELL ME... WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL THIS?


AND, HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GAIN POWERS SIMILAR TO OURS?
SIMILAR TO YOURS?? FOOLS! THEY FAR EXCEED YOURS!!
LOOK, DOC... YOU'RE OUR PARTNERS! DAD! WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP ACTIN' LIKE A PRO-FESSIONAL NUT!


YOU DARE SPEAK THAT WAY TO ME??! KNEEL, YOU BUFFOON! KNEEL TO THE INVINCIBLE MAN!
HOLY COW!! HIS ARM FEELS AS STRONG AS MINE!!

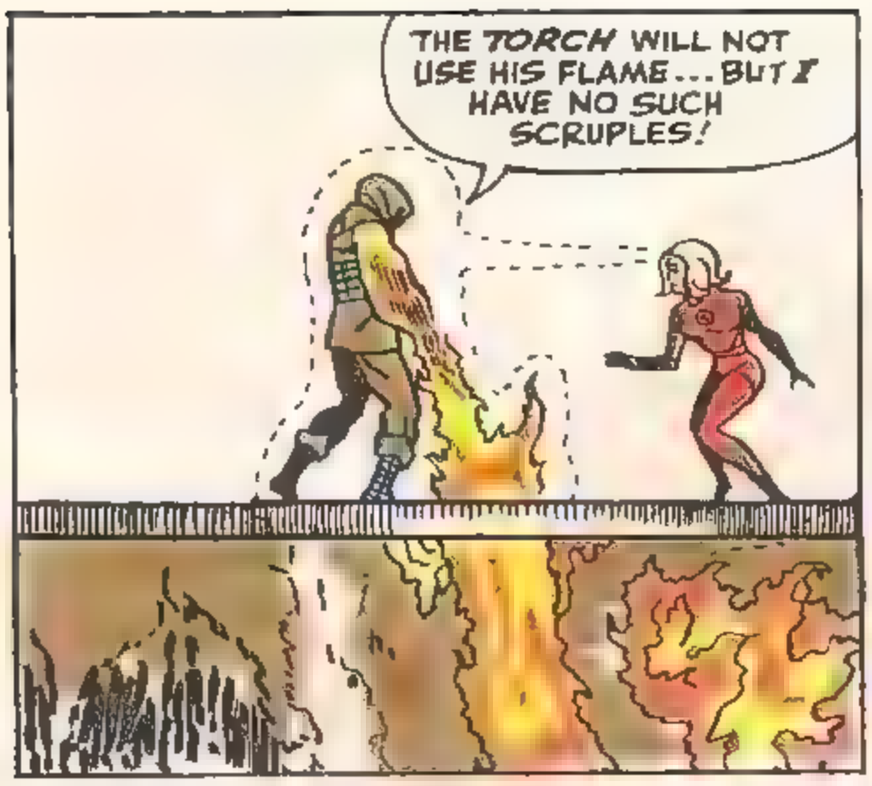
DON'T FORCE US TO FIGHT YOU, DR. STORM! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO REASON! YOU CAN'T RUN AMOK THROUGH THE CITY THIS WAY! YOU NEED HELP... YOU'RE A SICK MAN!
SICK, AM I, RICHARDS? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW SICK I AM!


I WARNED YOU OF MY POWER... BUT YOU CHOSE NOT TO BELIEVE!
HE IS AS STRONG AS THE THING... BUT... HOW???

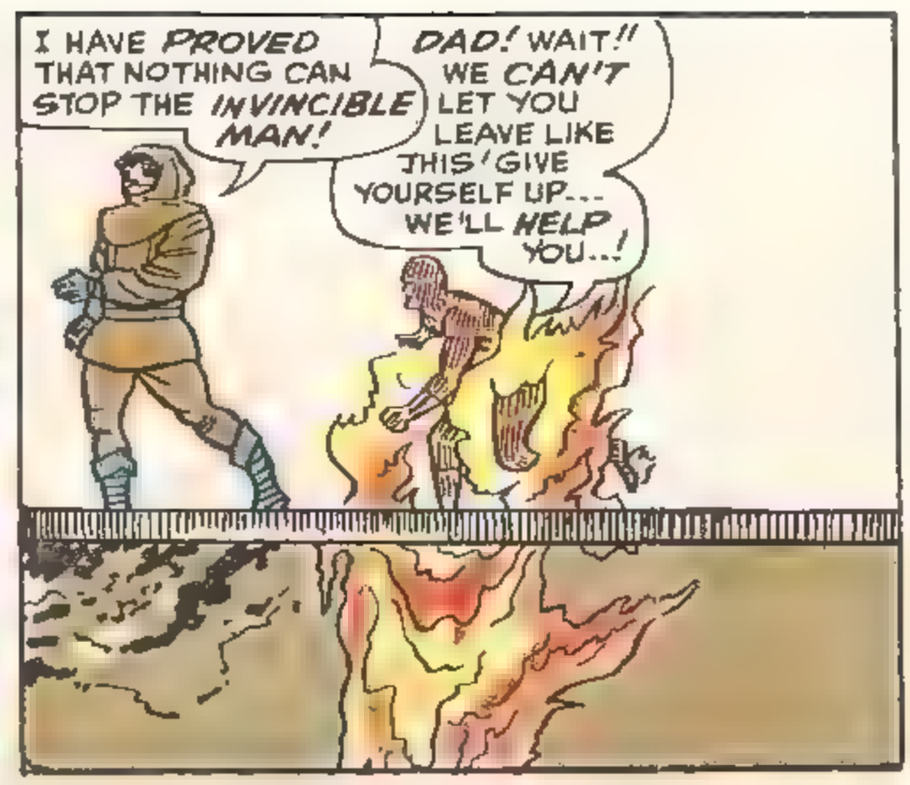

LUCKY MY BODY IS PLIABLE, OR THE IMPACT MIGHT HAVE FLOORED ME!
WHAT COULD HAVE CHANGED DR. STORM INTO A MURDEROUS MENACE??

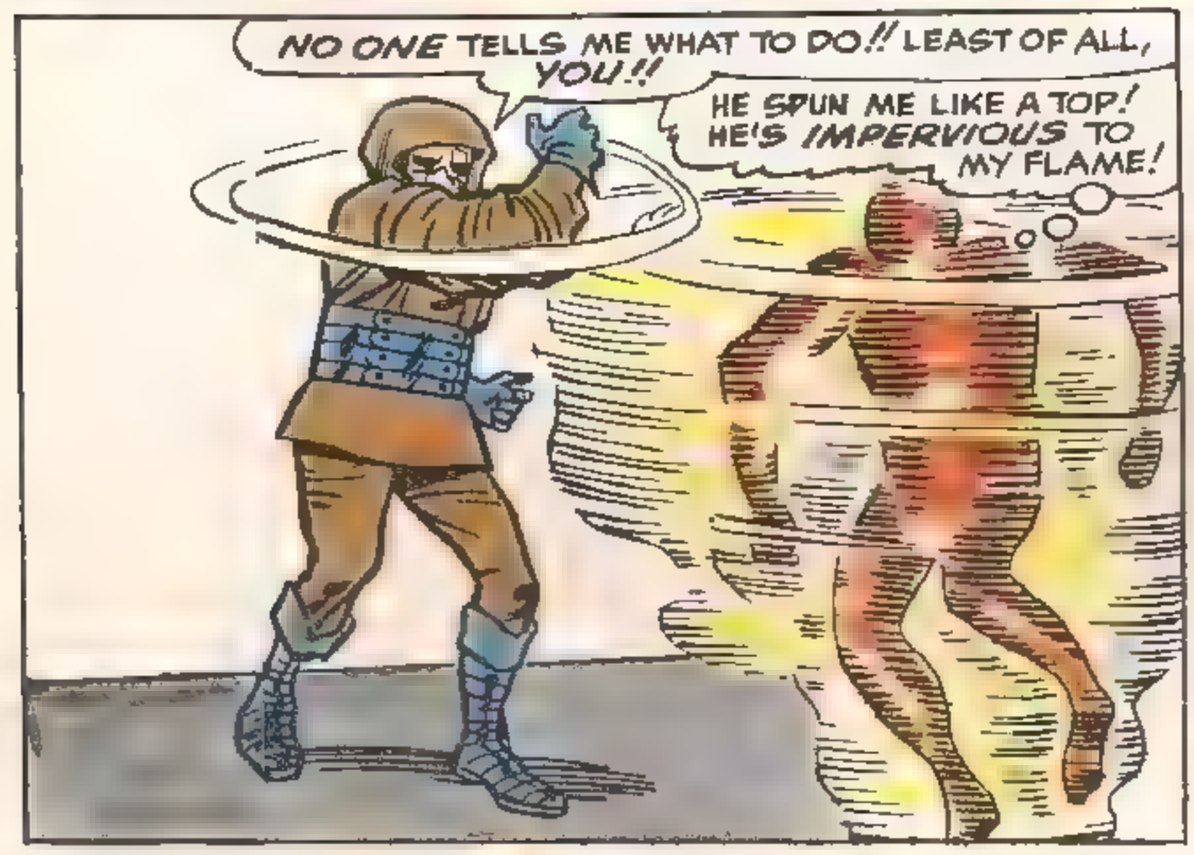
YOU STILL HOLD YOUR GRIP UPON ME, EH, RICHARDS?? WELL, THIS WILL BREAK IT!
ALL I NEED DO IS HEAT MY OWN HANDS... LIKE THE TORCH!

DAD! THIS IS INSANE!
SUE, HE'S YOUR FATHER! STOP 'IM BEFORE WE HAVE TO HURT HIM! DO SOMETHIN', KID!
PERHAPS I CAN RESTRAIN HIM WITH MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD WHILE WE TRY TO PLAN SOME NEW STRATEGY!
I CAN'T USE MY FLAME AGAINST HIM... NOT AGAINST MY OWN DAD! I JUST CAN'T!

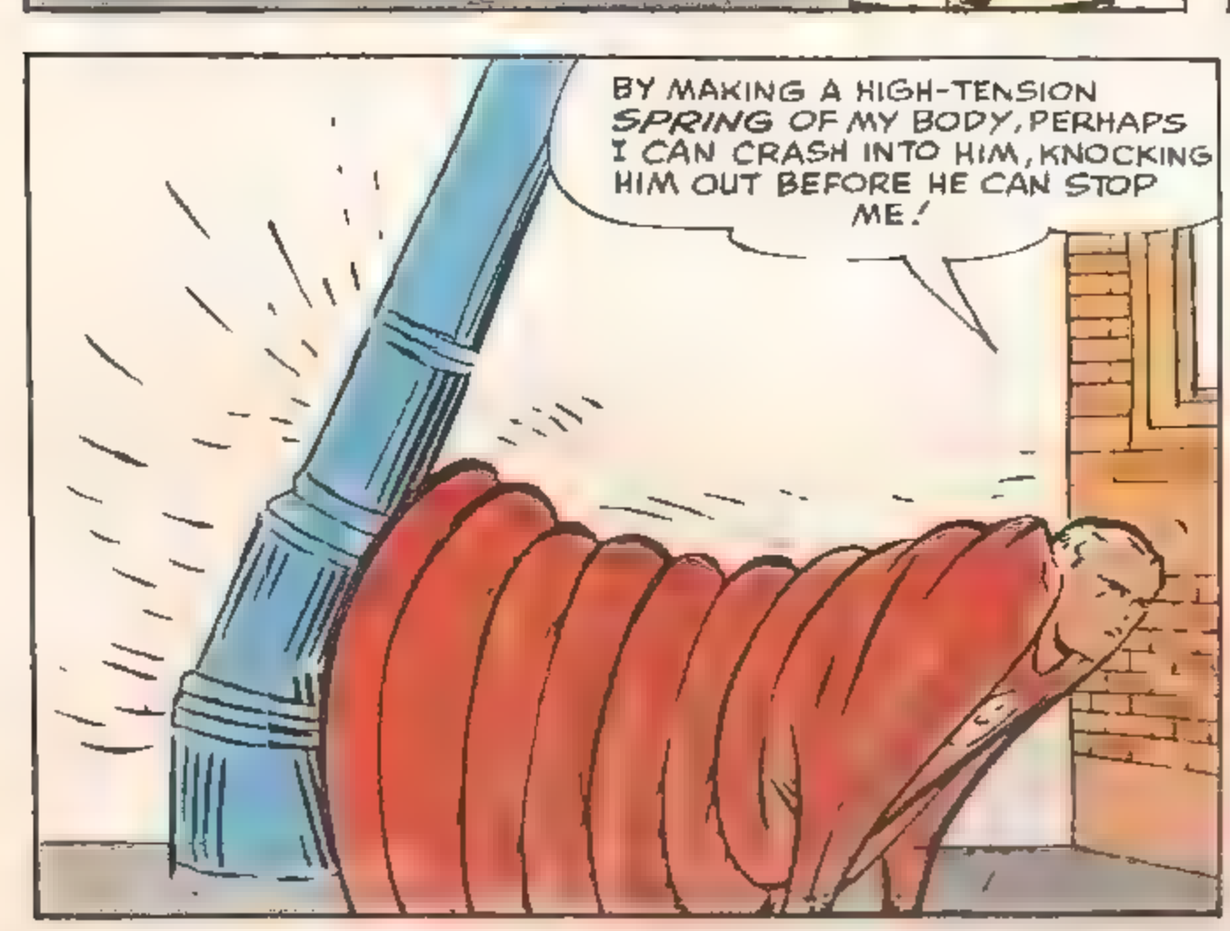

THE TORCH WILL NOT USE HIS FLAME... BUT I HAVE NO SUCH SCRUPLES!

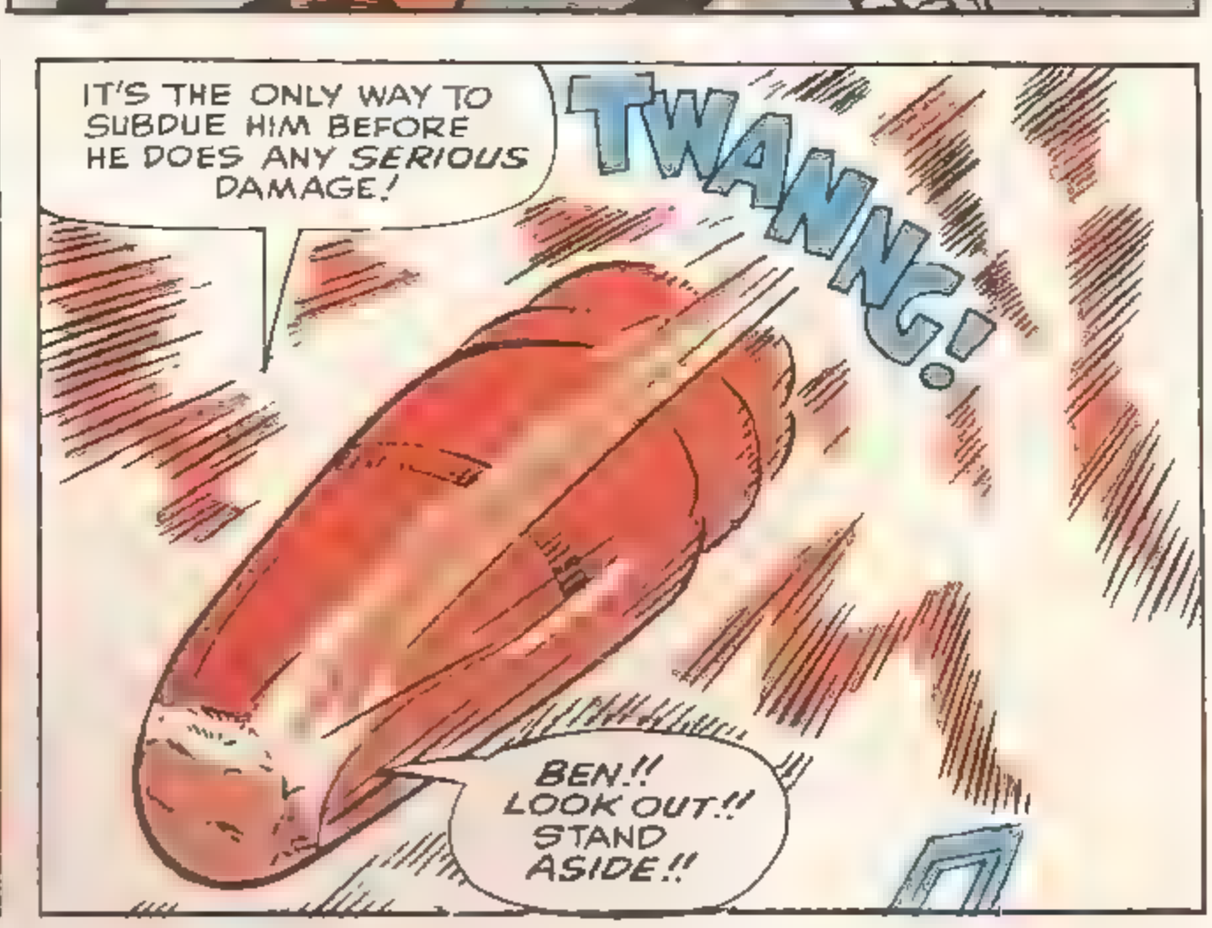
YOU CANNOT CONTROL YOUR INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD IF THE SIDEWALK UNDER YOU IS TOO HOT TO BEAR!
I'LL GET YOU, SUE!


I HAVE PROVED THAT NOTHING CAN STOP THE INVINCIBLE MAN!
DAD! WAIT!! WE CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE LIKE THIS! GIVE YOURSELF UP... WE'LL HELP YOU...!


NO ONE TELLS ME WHAT TO DO!! LEAST OF ALL, YOU!!
HE SPUN ME LIKE A TOP! HE'S IMPERVIOUS TO MY FLAME!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, JOHNNY?
YEAH, BUT WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?? WHAT CAN WE DO?
LOOK AT REED! HE'S UP TO SOMETHING!!
STAY BACK, ALL OF YOU...!


BY MAKING A HIGH-TENSION SPRING OF MY BODY, PERHAPS I CAN CRASH INTO HIM, KNOCKING HIM OUT BEFORE HE CAN STOP ME!

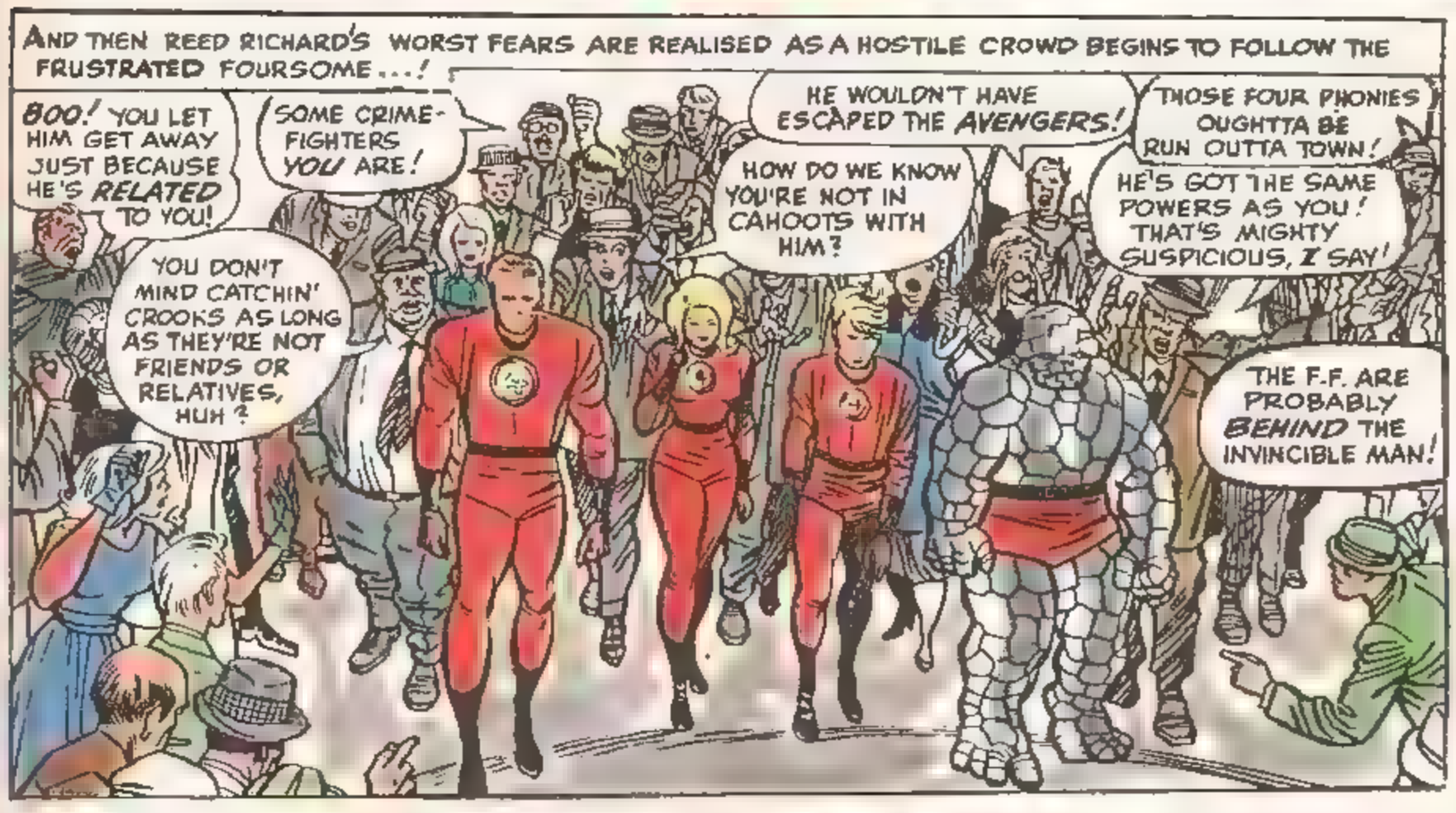

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SUBDUE HIM BEFORE HE DOES ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE!
TWANNG!
BEN!! LOOK OUT!! STAND ASIDE!!

CAN'T HELP MYSELF, PAL! SUE'S GOT ME IN THAT BLAMED INVISIBLE FORCE-FIELD OF HERS!!
THANK YOU, YOUNG LADY! THAT WAS MOST HELPFUL OF YOU!!

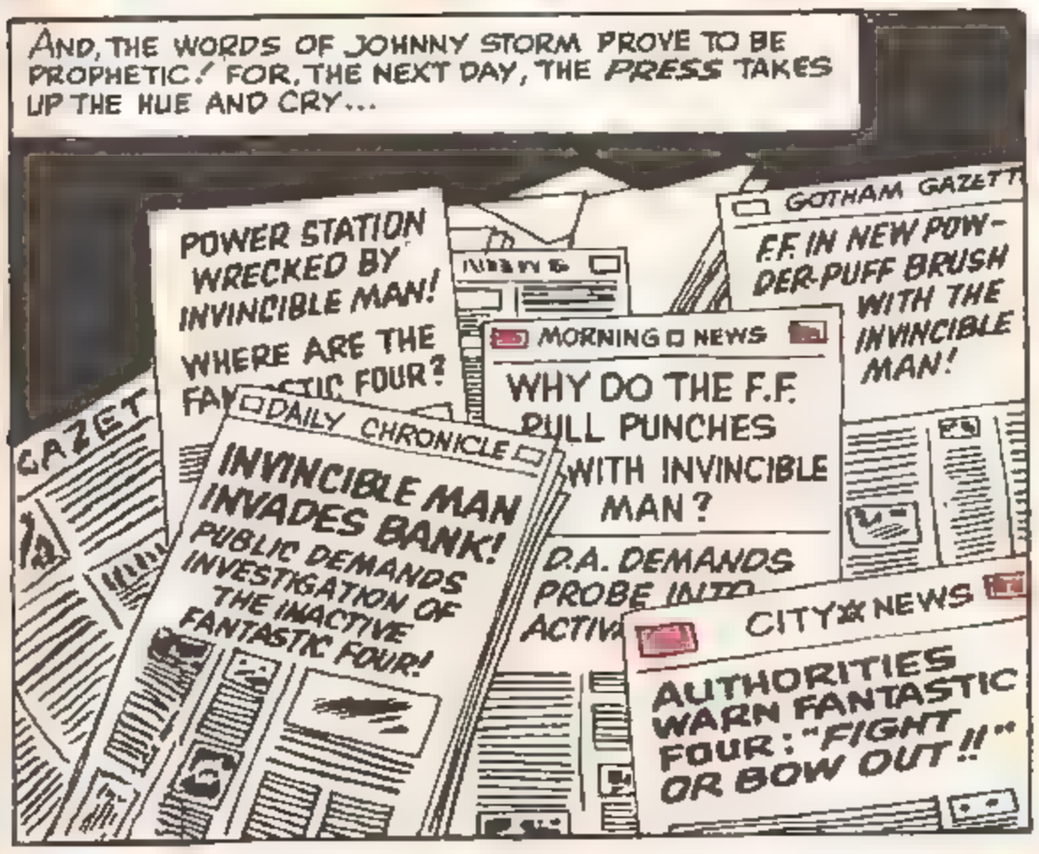
FORGIVE ME, REED! I..I HAD TO DO IT! I JUST COULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF YOUR HURTING DAD!
YOU HAVE BEEN HURTING HIM FAR MORE BY PROTECTING HIM, SUE!
HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON? ARE WE STARTING TO FIGHT EACH OTHER NOW??
GET OFF ME, WILL YOU? I FEEL LIKE A MATTRESS!!

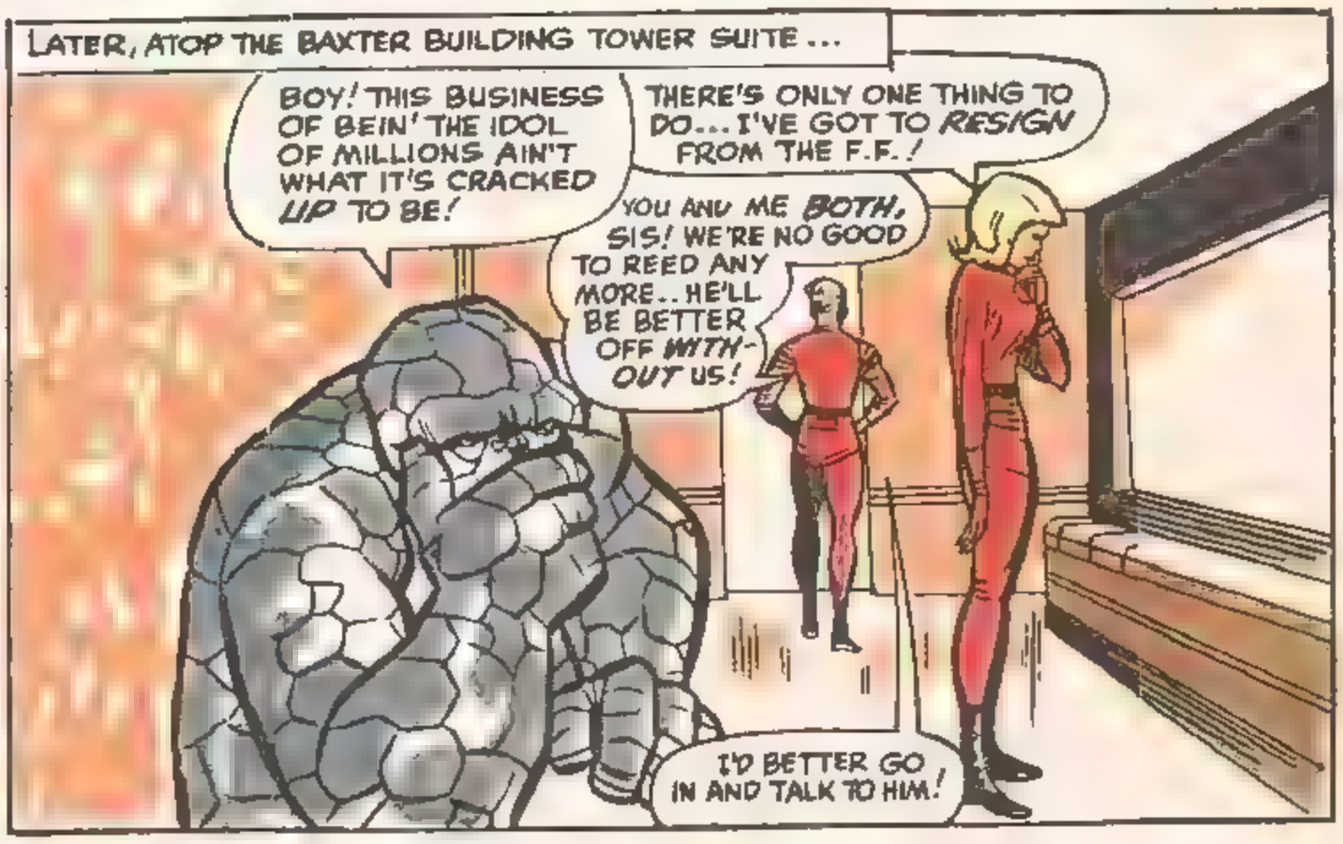
IF I'M THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP, YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST ME... OBEY ME IMPLICITLY!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO UPSET... SO ANNOYED WITH ME!!

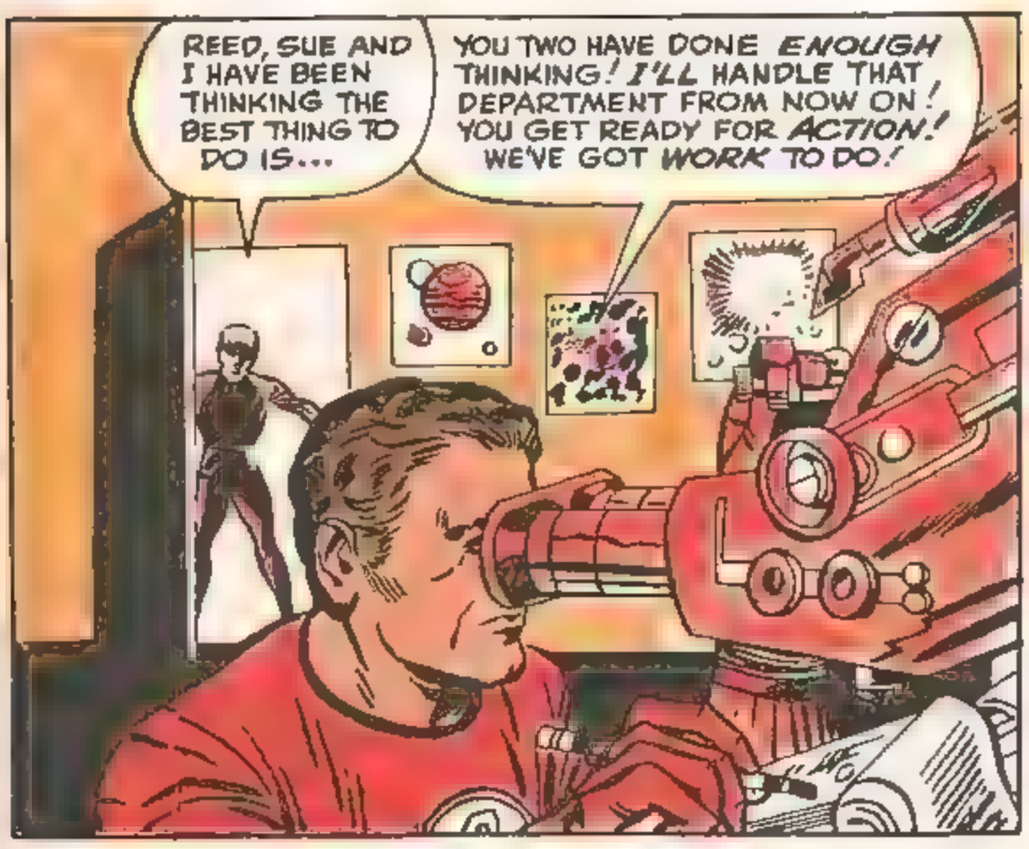
THERE! THANKS TO YOUR INTERFERENCE, HE'S GOT AWAY! AND JUST WHEN WE ALMOST HAD HIM!
WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO, TEACHER.. STAND IN THE CORNER?
SHUT UP, BEN! WE'RE IN A JAM NOW!

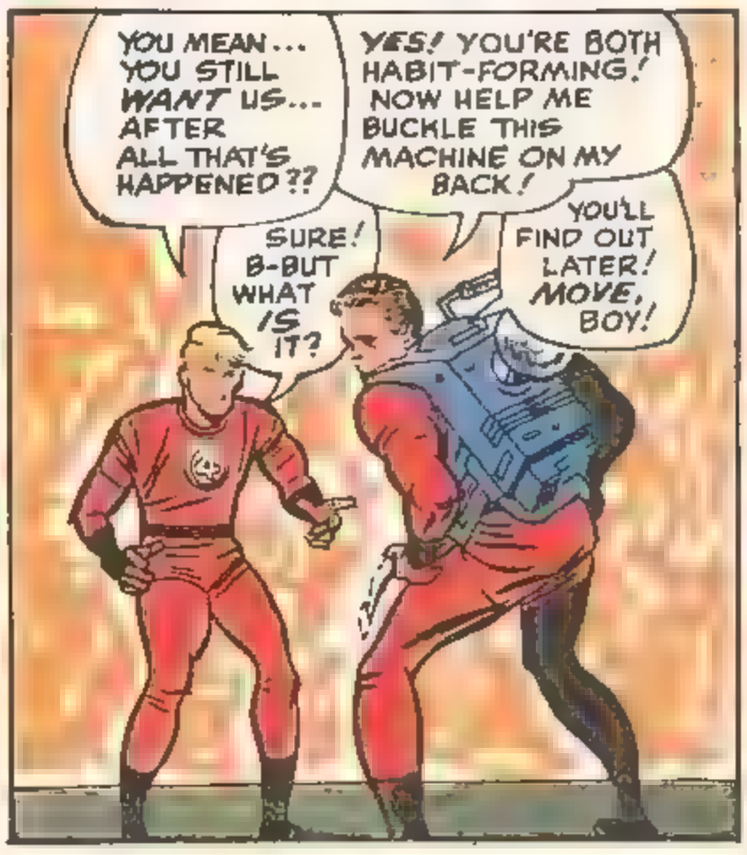

AND THEN REED RICHARD'S WORST FEARS ARE REALISED AS A HOSTILE CROWD BEGINS TO FOLLOW THE FRUSTRATED FOURSOME...!
BOO! YOU LET HIM GET AWAY JUST BECAUSE HE'S RELATED TO YOU!
SOME CRIME-FIGHTERS YOU ARE!
HE WOULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED THE AVENGERS!
THOSE FOUR PHONIES OUGHTTA BE RUN OUTTA TOWN!
HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT IN CAHOOTS WITH HIM?
HE'S GOT THE SAME POWERS AS YOU! THAT'S MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS, I SAY!
YOU DON'T MIND CATCHIN' CROOKS AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT FRIENDS OR RELATIVES, HUH?
THE F.F. ARE PROBABLY BEHIND THE INVINCIBLE MAN!

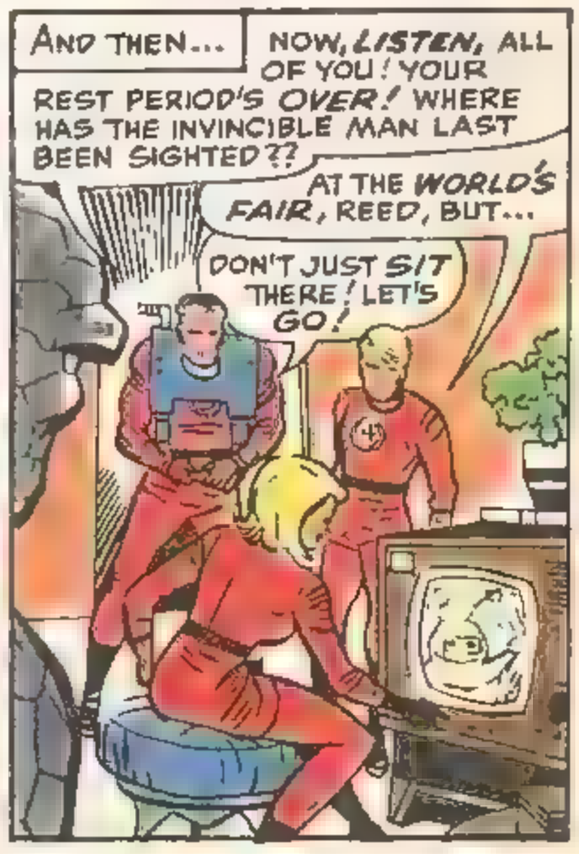
LISTEN TO THE UGLY MOOD OF THE CROWD... AND... IT'S ALL MY FAULT! REED WAS RIGHT!
PHOOEY! MOBS DON'T WORRY ME! TOMORROW THEY'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT THIS!
NOT IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT DAD, THEY WON'T!


AND, THE WORDS OF JOHNNY STORM PROVE TO BE PROPHETIC! FOR, THE NEXT DAY, THE PRESS TAKES UP THE HUE AND CRY...
POWER STATION WRECKED BY INVINCIBLE MAN!
WHERE ARE THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
GOTHAM GAZETTE
F.F. IN NEW POW-DER-PUFF BRUSH WITH THE INVINCIBLE MAN!
MORNING NEWS
WHY DO THE F.F. PULL PUNCHES WITH INVINCIBLE MAN?
DAILY CHRONICLE
INVINCIBLE MAN INVADES BANK!
PUBLIC DEMANDS INVESTIGATION OF THE INACTIVE FANTASTIC FOUR!
D.A. DEMANDS PROBE INTO ACTIV
CITY NEWS
AUTHORITIES WARN FANTASTIC FOUR: "FIGHT OR BOW OUT!!"


LATER, ATOP THE BAXTER BUILDING TOWER SUITE...
BOY! THIS BUSINESS OF BEIN' THE IDOL OF MILLIONS AIN'T WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... I'VE GOT TO RESIGN FROM THE F.F.!
YOU AND ME BOTH, SIS! WE'RE NO GOOD TO REED ANY MORE.. HE'LL BE BETTER OFF WITH-OUT US!
I'D BETTER GO IN AND TALK TO HIM!


REED, SUE AND I HAVE BEEN THINKING THE BEST THING TO DO IS...
YOU TWO HAVE DONE ENOUGH THINKING! I'LL HANDLE THAT DEPARTMENT FROM NOW ON! YOU GET READY FOR ACTION! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!


YOU MEAN... YOU STILL WANT US... AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED??
YES! YOU'RE BOTH HABIT-FORMING! NOW HELP ME BUCKLE THIS MACHINE ON MY BACK!
SURE! B-BUT WHAT IS IT?
YOU'LL FIND OUT LATER! MOVE, BOY!


AND THEN...
NOW, LISTEN, ALL OF YOU! YOUR REST PERIOD'S OVER! WHERE HAS THE INVINCIBLE MAN LAST BEEN SIGHTED??
AT THE WORLD'S FAIR, REED, BUT...
DON'T JUST SIT THERE! LET'S GO!

HOLD IT, STRETCH! WHAT IN THE DING-DONG SAM HILL IS GOIN' ON HERE?
STOW IT, BEN! I'M THROUGH EXPLAINING! YOU THREE ARE GOING TO LEARN TO FOLLOW ORDERS BLINDLY, IF NEED BE!
NOW LET'S GET TO THAT FAIR!

EXACTLY TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
SO! YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED TO STAY AWAY FROM ME YET!
OR, PERHAPS YOU CAME TO SEE THE EXHIBITS??
IF SO, HERE'S ONE YOU CAN HAVE, FOR FREE!!
LOOK ALIVE, BEN! HURL THAT MECHANICAL DISPLAY BACK AT HIM!
OKAY, BUT STOP SHOUTIN', STRING-BEAN!

WHAP!
THERE! LET 'IM CHEW ON THIS FOR A WHILE!!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SO SOON THAT I POSSESS THE POWER OF SUE'S INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!??
WHUMM FF!

WE'VE FORGOTTEN NOTHING! I NOW POSSESS THE POWER TO DESTROY YOU...!
REED!.. NO! HE'S STILL MY FATHER!
DON'T DO IT, REED!
HE'S NOT YOUR FATHER!! I KNOW AT LAST WHO HE REALLY IS... AND I KNOW HOW TO BEAT HIM!

THIS IS AN ULTRA-SONIC RADIO TRANSMITTER I'M HOLDING... AND I HAVE IT BEAMED TO YOUR HOME GALAXY! I'M CONTACTING THEM NOW... TELLING THEM TO RETURN THE REAL DR STORM... OR WE'LL FIGHT YOU TO THE DEATH!
NO! NO! YOU COULDN'T HAVE FOUND OUT! YOU COULDN'T!
WE COULD, AND DID! ONCE AGAIN YOU MADE THE FATAL MISTAKE OF UNDERESTIMATING THE HUMAN BRAIN!

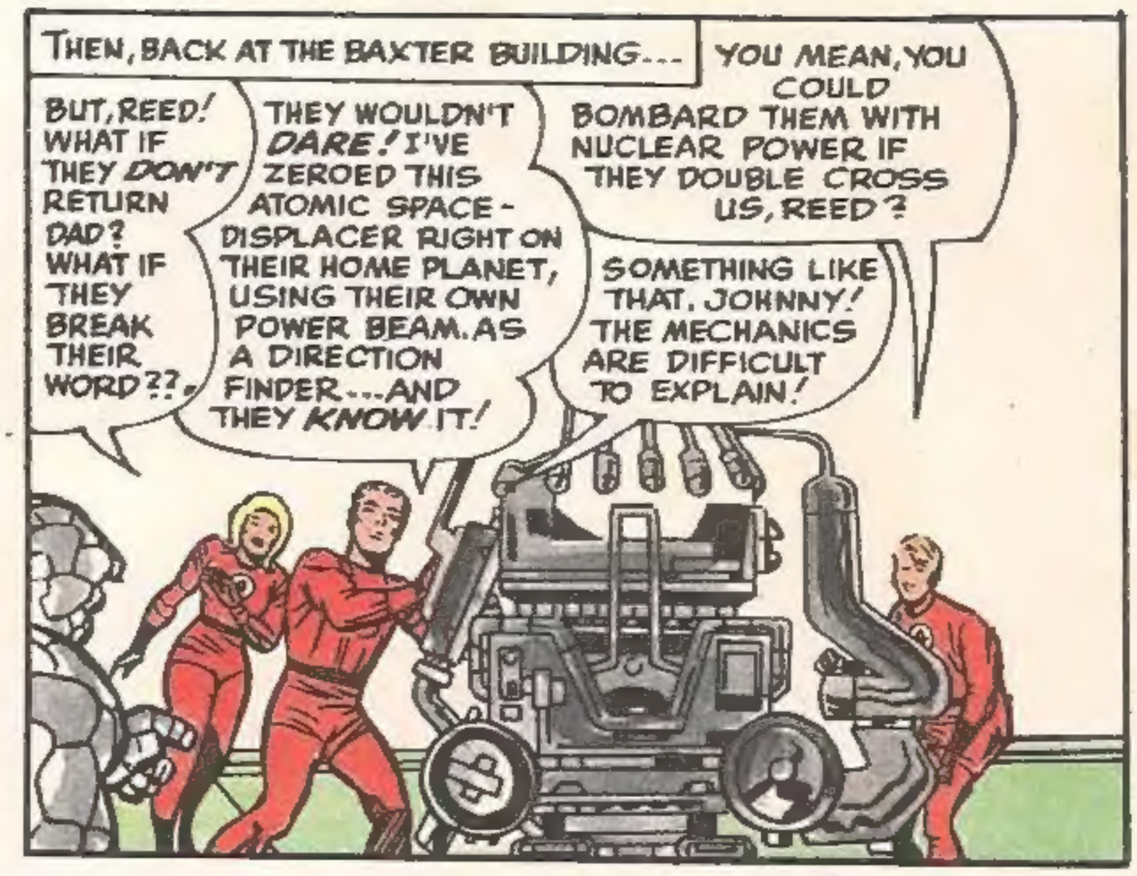
SO STARTLED IS THEIR FOE, THAT REED MANAGES TO LAND A CRUSHING BLOW BEFORE HE CAN REACT...
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD DISCREDIT US... MAKE US NOT FIGHT YOU, BY POSING AS DR. STORM... DIDN'T YOU?

YES!! BUT NOW THERE IS NO MORE NEED FOR DISGUISE! NOW I CAN BE MYSELF AGAIN!! I CAN DISSOLVE THIS ACCURSED HUMAN GUISE...

IT.. IT'S THE SUPER-SKRULL!!
OF COURSE, WITLESS FEMALE! DID YOU THINK MY HOME PLANET WOULD ALLOW ME TO BE TRAPPED IN THAT VOLCANO FOREVER?

BUT... WHAT ABOUT MY FATHER??
DON'T WORRY, DEAR... THEY'RE GOING TO RETURN HIM TO EARTH... TO TRADE HIM FOR THE SUPER SKRULL! SEE, THEY'VE STARTED THE PRISONER EXCHANGE!

THEY KNEW WE COULD DEFEAT THEM IN A FAIR FIGHT! BUT THEY GAMBLED ON CONVINCING US THAT HE WAS YOUR FATHER...TO DIVIDE US AND WEAKEN US! WHEN I CONTACTED THEM, THEY KNEW THE GAME WAS UP! THEY'LL RETURN YOUR DAD, SUE...THEY'VE NO FURTHER NEED FOR HIM!
BUT HOW COULD YOU HAVE GUESSED?? THERE WERE NO CLUES...!
LET'S RETURN TO HQ, DEAR... AND I'LL EXPLAIN...

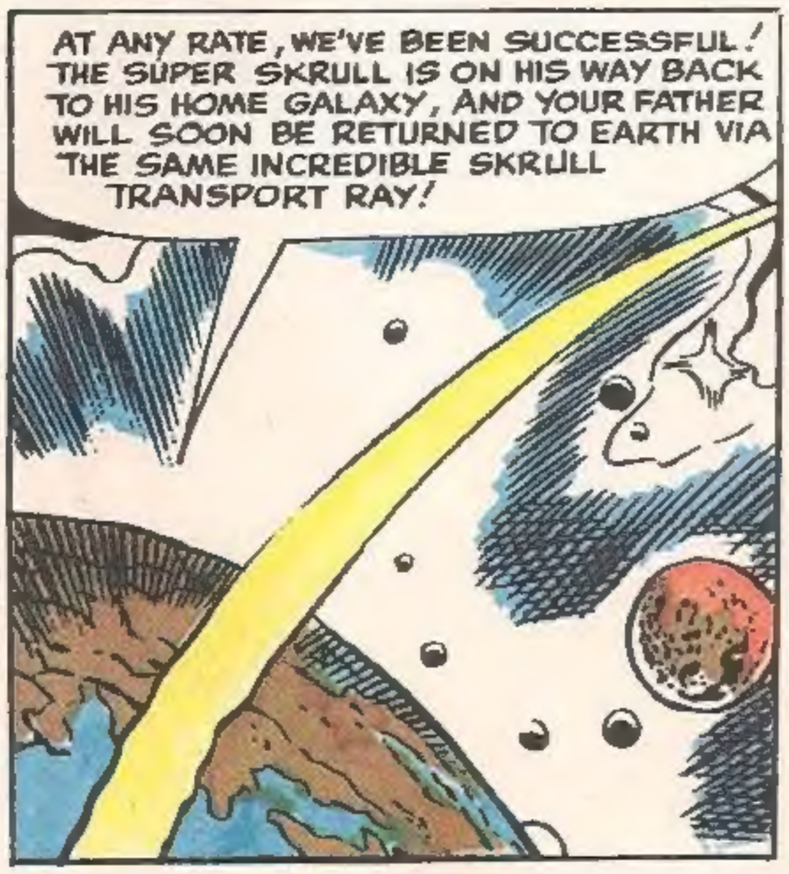

THEN, BACK AT THE BAXTER BUILDING...
YOU MEAN, YOU COULD BOMBARD THEM WITH NUCLEAR POWER IF THEY DOUBLE CROSS US, REED?
BUT, REED! WHAT IF THEY DON'T RETURN DAD? WHAT IF THEY BREAK THEIR WORD??
THEY WOULDN'T DARE! I'VE ZEROED THIS ATOMIC SPACE-DISPLACER RIGHT ON THEIR HOME PLANET, USING THEIR OWN POWER BEAM AS A DIRECTION FINDER...AND THEY KNOW IT!
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, JOHNNY! THE MECHANICS ARE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN!

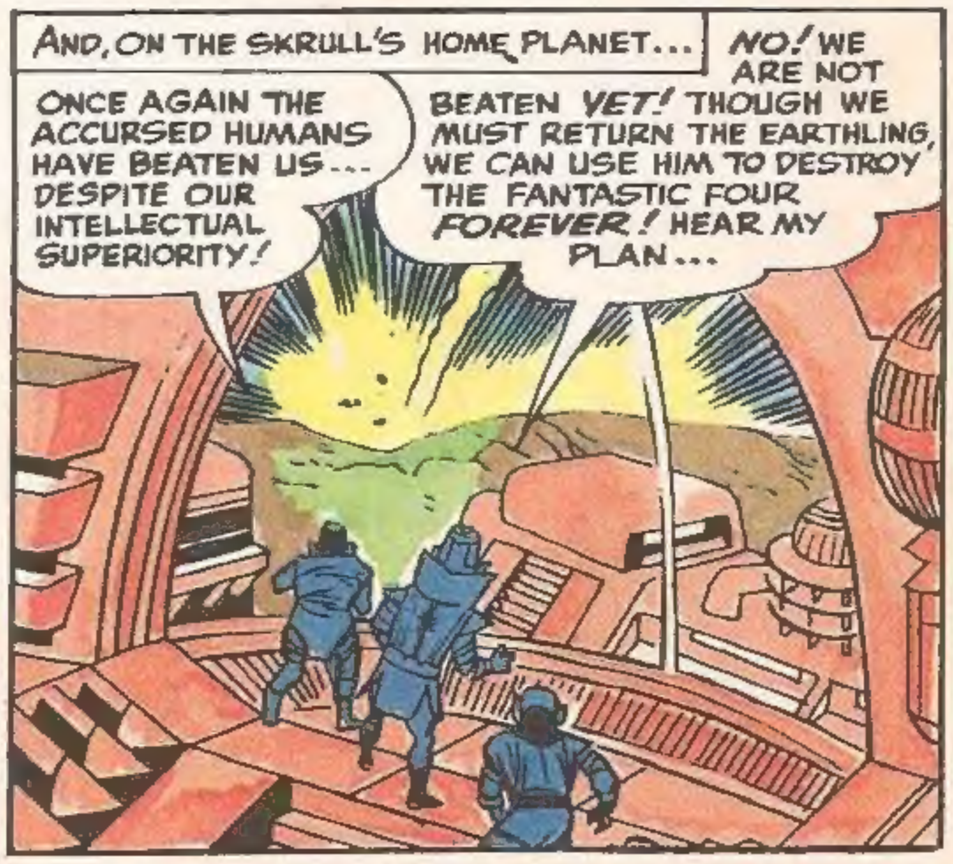
"I SUSPECTED THE TRUTH FROM THE FIRST! I KNEW THAT NO ONE COULD DUPLICATE OUR POWERS IN AN ORDINARY PRISON LAB! THERE HAD TO BE ANOTHER EXPLANATION! THEN I REMEMBERED THE ONE FOE WHO DID HAVE POWERS THE SAME AS WE...!"
I'VE GOT TO RECHECK THE ISLE WHERE WE IMPRISONED THE SUPER SKRULL LAST YEAR!

"USING MY LONG-DISTANCE SCANNER BEAM, I SOON FOUND WHAT I WAS SEEKING..."
THE CRATER'S PEAK HAS BEEN OPENED! THE SUPER SKRULL IS FREE!

"DURING OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, I TOOK ELECTRON PHOTOS OF THE INVINCIBLE MAN WITH A CONCEALED CAMERA, AND MY PROOF WAS COMPLETE!"
HIS MOLECULAR BODY STRUCTURE IS IN A CONSTANT STATE OF INSTABILITY...THE SAME AS A SKRULL'S! THAT'S THE ANSWER!

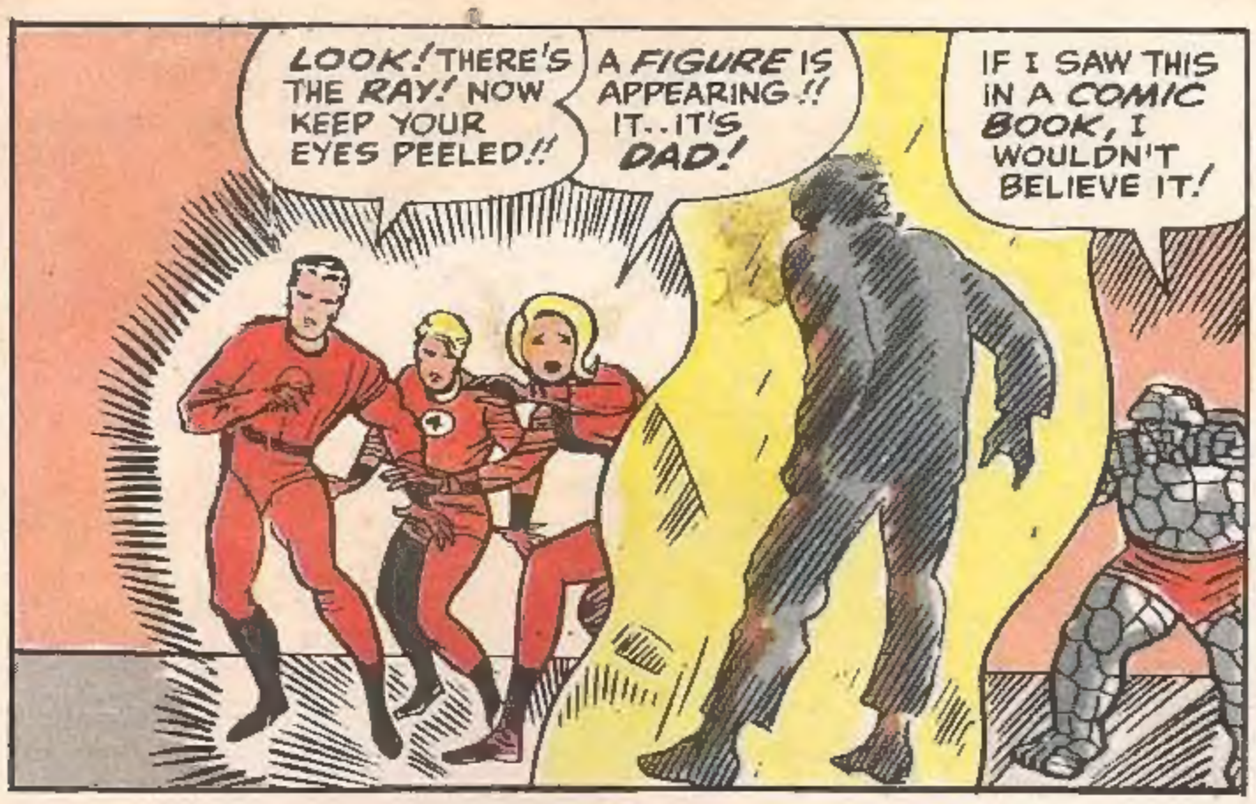
"PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST MY TEMPER WITH YOU... PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED THEN! BUT I WAS TOO WORRIED...TOO ANXIOUS TO GET BACK, AND WORK ON MY SPACE-DISPLACER!! EVERY SECOND WAS VITAL!"

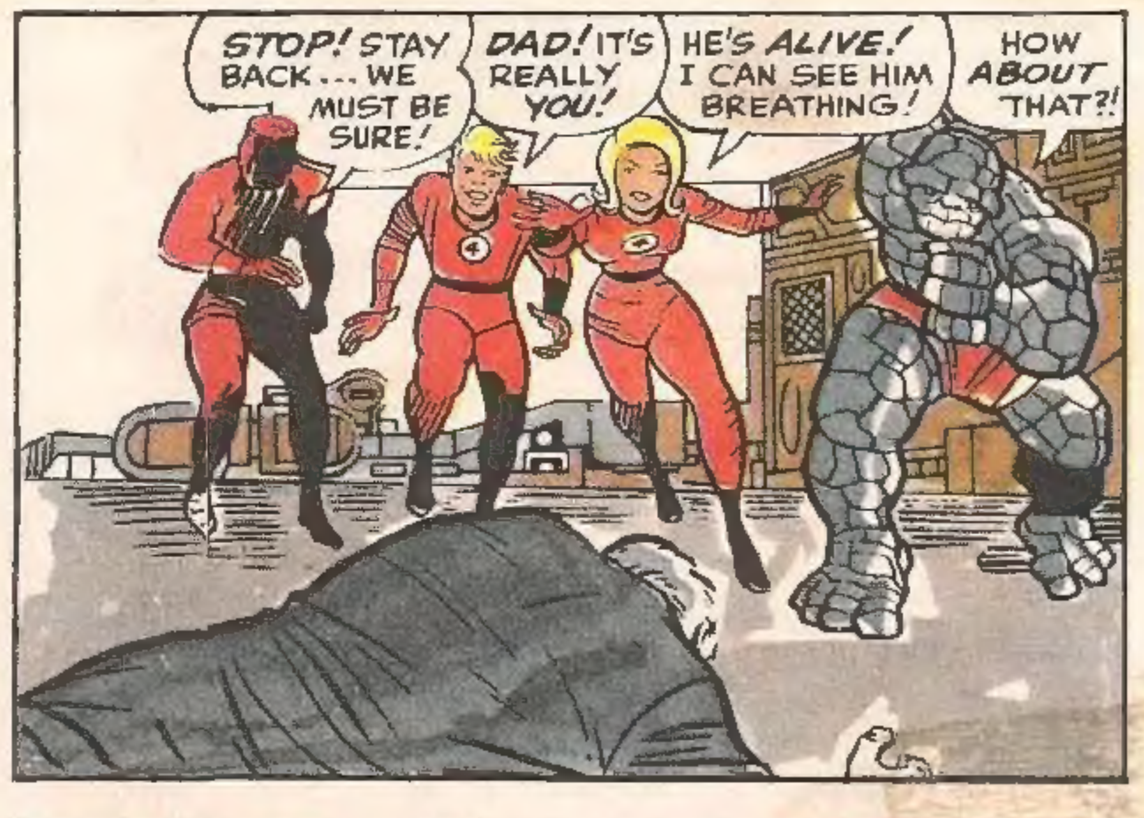

AT ANY RATE, WE'VE BEEN SUCCESSFUL! THE SUPER SKRULL IS ON HIS WAY BACK TO HIS HOME GALAXY, AND YOUR FATHER WILL SOON BE RETURNED TO EARTH VIA THE SAME INCREDIBLE SKRULL TRANSPORT RAY!


AND, ON THE SKRULL'S HOME PLANET...
ONCE AGAIN THE ACCURSED HUMANS HAVE BEATEN US... DESPITE OUR INTELLECTUAL SUPERIORITY!
NO! WE ARE NOT BEATEN YET! THOUGH WE MUST RETURN THE EARTHLING, WE CAN USE HIM TO DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR FOREVER! HEAR MY PLAN...

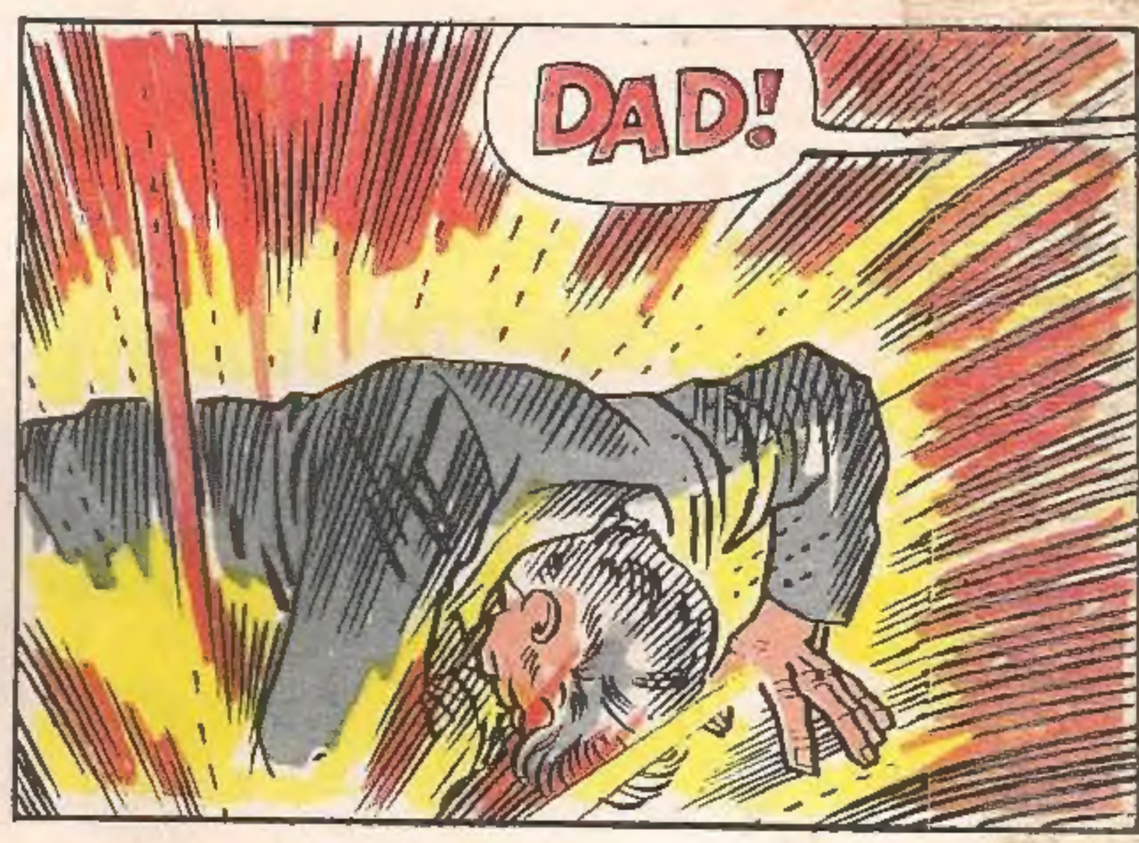
AND, AS THE LONG, TENSE MOMENTS TICK BY...
ALL CIRCUITS ARE OPEN AND FUNCTIONING! ALL COORDINATES ARE PERFECTLY MESHED! YOUR FATHER SHOULD APPEAR MOMENTARILY!
GOLLY, REED! IF YOU CAN REALLY PULL THIS OFF...!
I-I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S LIKE A NIGHT-MARE!
EASY, KID! THE WORST IS OVER NOW!

DON'T BE TOO SURE, BEN! THE SKRULLS ARE AN INHUMAN, MERCILESS RACE! THEY'RE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING!
THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION OF THEIR PLANET WILL MAKE THEM RETURN YOUR FATHER... BUT WE MUST STILL BE WARY OF ANY TRICK, ANY DEADLY DECEPTION!
WHY DOESN'T SOMETHING HAPPEN!!? THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING!


LOOK! THERE'S THE RAY! NOW KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!!
A FIGURE IS APPEARING!! IT..IT'S DAD!
IF I SAW THIS IN A COMIC BOOK, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

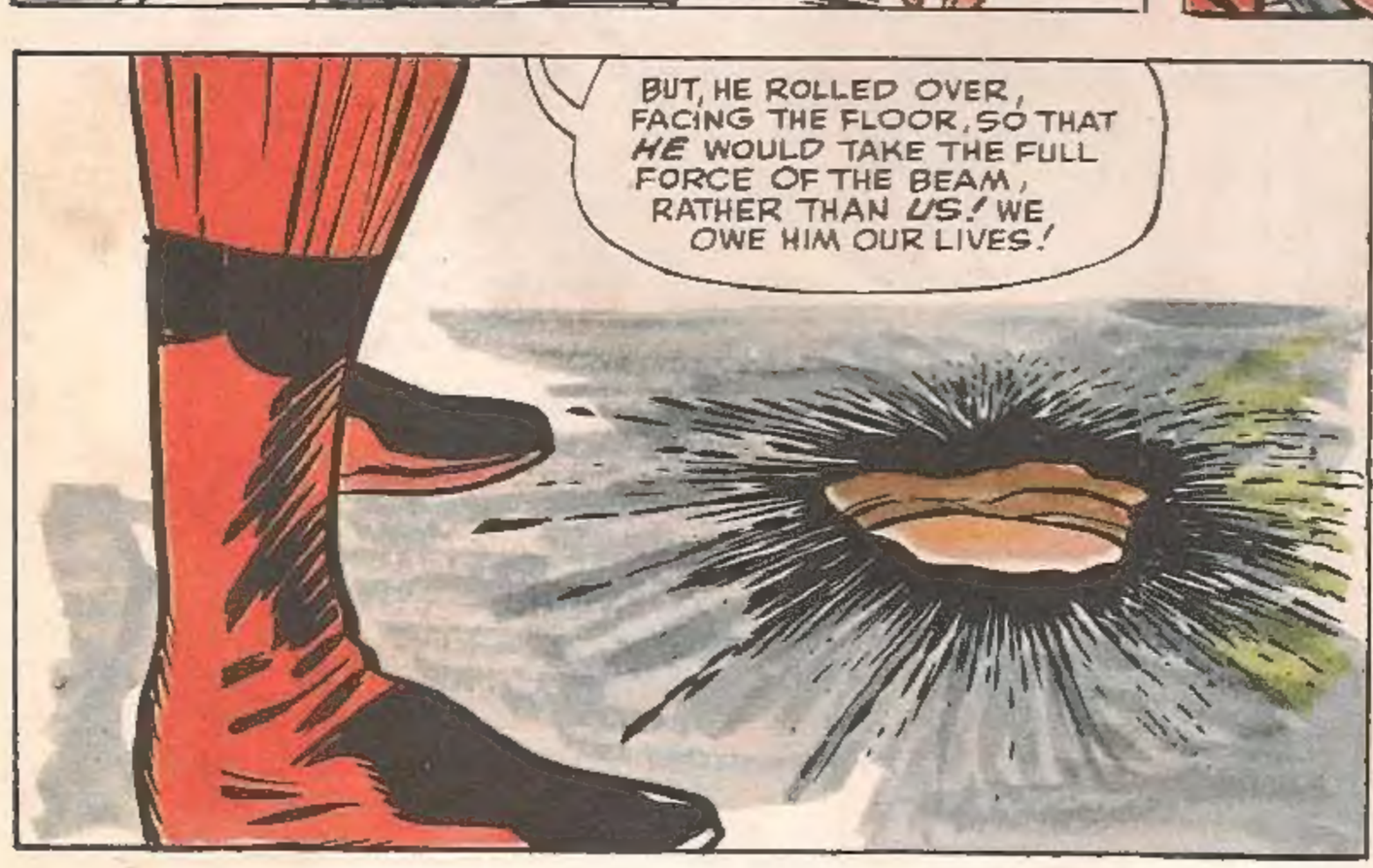

STOP! STAY BACK... WE MUST BE SURE!
DAD! IT'S REALLY YOU!
HE'S ALIVE! I CAN SEE HIM BREATHING!
HOW ABOUT THAT?!

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, THE STUNNED FIGURE LOOKS ABOUT HIM, AND EXCLAIMS IN FEAR...
NO! GO BACK! STAY AWAY FROM ME!


DAD!

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...??
JUST AS I FEARED!! THE SKRULLS MADE A LIVING BOOBY TRAP OF HIM!
OH NO!! HE ISN'T... HE ISN'T...?!
GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF, KID! HE'S HAD IT!!

THEY STRAPPED SOME SORT OF HIGH IMPACT EXPLOSIVE BEAM TO HIS CHEST! IF HE HAD MERELY LOOKED AT US, WE'D HAVE RECEIVED THE FULL, DEADLY CHARGE, AND HE'D HAVE SURVIVED!
LET ME HAVE 'IM! I'LL PUT HIM ON THE SOFA...!


BUT, HE ROLLED OVER, FACING THE FLOOR, SO THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE FULL FORCE OF THE BEAM, RATHER THAN US! WE OWE HIM OUR LIVES!

OH, DAD... DAD...!
DON'T CRY, SUE...OR YOU, JOHNNY! DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR ME..!
SEND OVER AN AMBULANCE, PRONTO...!
IT WILL BE TOO LATE, BEN!

I WAS FOOLISH ... WEAK ... I LET A TRAGEDY OF LIFE DEFEAT ME YEARS AGO! I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO CARRY ON ... AS I SHOULD HAVE ... FOR YOU!!

BUT NOW, SOMEHOW, I FOUND MY COURAGE!! SO ... PERHAPS ... I'VE MADE UP FOR THE YEARS I'D WASTED ... THAT'S WHY YOU MUST NOT CRY ... AT LAST I'VE REGAINED ... MY PRIDE ...!

THINK KINDLY OF ME, MY CHILDREN .. ALWAYS REMEMBER ... I LOVED YOU ... NEVER FORGET HOW PROUD YOU MADE ME ... WITH YOUR HONOUR ... YOUR VALOUR ... YOUR SELFLESS LOVE ...

MY LIFE HAS BEEN LONELY ... ALL THESE YEARS ... BUT NOW I'LL BE LONELY NO MORE ... DO YOU HEAR ?? I'LL BE LONELY NO MORE ...

... FOR I'M GOING .. TO JOIN ... MY BELOVED ... MARY ...
DAD!!!
HE .. HE'S GONE!!

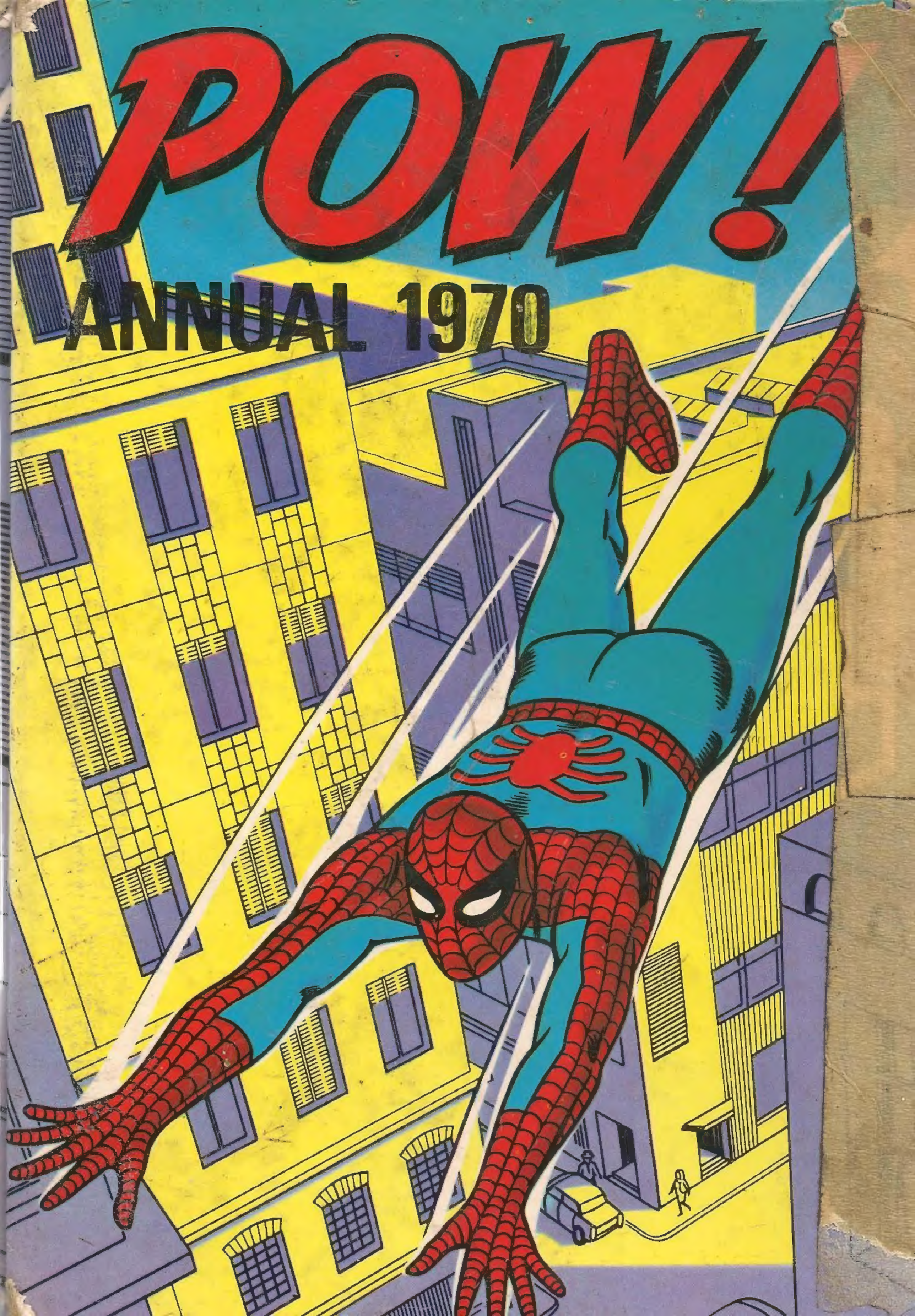
RICHARDS, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THERE WAS A REPORT OF AN EXPLOSION! DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
COME IN, OFFICERS! I CAN EXPLAIN ...

I DON'T TAKE MUCH STOCK IN WHAT THE PAPERS SAY ABOUT YOU ... I KNOW THE GREAT THINGS YOU'VE DONE IN THE PAST! BUT YOU'VE BEEN ACTING MIGHTY STRANGE LATELY, SINCE THIS INVINCIBLE MAN BUSINESS ...!
YOU NEED WORRY ABOUT THAT NO LONGER, CAPTAIN!

THE CASE IS .. CLOSED!
SAY! THAT'S HIM ... ON THE BED! OR ... OR IS IT??

CAPTAIN, THAT IS THE LATE DR. FRANKLIN STORM ... ONE OF THE FINEST, BRAVEST MEN I'VE EVER HAD THE HONOUR OF KNOWING!
HOW ... DID IT HAPPEN, RICHARDS?

I'LL GIVE YOU A FULL ACCOUNT LATER! BUT, FOR NOW, LET US SAY THAT HE DIED ... A HERO!
The End.


POW!
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